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VOL. XI. PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1873. NO. 88.

FIRST EDITION

THE VILLE DU HAVRE.

Letter of a Surviving Passenger—Cause of the Accident—Conduct of the Officers, Crew and Passengers—A Contrast of Bravery and Cowardice.

NEW YORK, December 23.—The *Tribune* to-morrow, will publish a second letter from Rudolph A. Witthause, Jr., who was a passenger on the ill-fated Ville du Havre, to his father in this city. He writes as follows:

In my last, I gave you a sketch of my experience in connection with the sinking of the Ville du Havre. I will now give you my opinions concerning

THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT, &C.

From all that I can gather from the officers and men I conclude that the blame rests entirely with the officer on watch on the steamer, whose duty it was to get out of the Loch Earn's way; and it appears that instead of doing this he did the very opposite, although the course of the steamer was to run right across the bows of the Loch Earn; at least so says the officer who was on watch on the latter boat at the time of the collision. In any case, it is an acknowledged rule of sea that a steamer is bound to get out of the way of sailing craft, and as the night was magnificently clear and calm, the accident can only have occurred through some inexcusable blunder of those in charge of the steamer.

AFTER THE ACCIDENT,

if it can be so called, had occurred and while the ship was sinking, the officers and crew behaved in the most cowardly manner. The latter I know, and the former I believe, looking out for themselves and leaving the women and children to look out for themselves. The only exception I saw, being Dr. M. R. Audouy, whom I saw, three or four minutes before the ship went down, going below. I told him he would not have time to get up again, to which he answered that he must look after those who were crushed in their staterooms. He never came up again.

A SIGNIFICANT FACT,

and one needing no comment, is that not a single passenger was taken from the sinking ship by boats, all being picked up in the water, while at least twenty of the officers and crew reached the Loch Earn without wetting as much as the soles of their shoes.

OF CAPTAIN SURMONT'S CONDUCT

I know nothing. Those who saw him spoke well of him, and I do not think that he is directly to blame for the collision, although he is to blame for not having his crew under better discipline and for not having his boats in condition to be promptly lowered.

BRAVERY OF PASSENGERS.

In great contrast with the demoralized condition of the crew, was the coolness of the passengers, even the women and children; no screaming or running about without an object. The women were in knots, praying quietly, while the men were looking around for life buoys or pieces of wood, or were making efforts to get one of the boats which the crew had abandoned clear of the ship, so that it might float when the vessel sank.

LOCH EARN'S OFFICERS AND CREW.

Language fails me in expressing my admiration of, and gratitude to the gallantry and generosity of the officers and crew of the Loch Earn and of the Trimountain. The former saved the greater part of us from the water and both gave us clothing and did all in their power to make us as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. The French crew, on the contrary, were a mob of brutes and cowards.

FORT WAYNE.

Feeding the Hungry and Clothing the Naked—Great Success of Festivals for the Relief of the Poor—Lighting the City with Naptha.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., December 23, 1873.

The series of festivals for the relief of the poor have just closed, with very flattering success. A large sum of money was collected, and a great many donations were made. General assistance to the needy is continually going forward all the time. No fear is entertained here of labor strikes or demands on the city for money or work.

The use of naptha for gas is meeting with general favor, and arrangements for lighting the city are being made as fast as possible. The whole city will be completely equipped with naptha burners at once.

IRONTON, OHIO.

Resumption of Nail Works To-day—End of the Miners' Strike.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

IRONTON, O., December 23, 1873.

The coal miners of the Bellefonte Nail Works, who have heretofore embarrassed the running of the works by their refusal to accede to the proposed reduction of wages, are understood to-night to have acceded to the terms, and are expected to go to work to-morrow morning.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 23, 1873.

TRIAL OF OAKEY HALL.

The evidence for the prosecution closed in the case of ex-Mayor Hall, and the court adjourned till to-morrow.

WILLING TO COMPROMISE.

Woodruff & Morrison, of South Brooklyn, whose books were seized some time ago on the charge that they had defrauded the government, have offered to pay $35,000 as a penalty.

THE LOST GENET.

Sheriff Brennan, through his counsel, has pleaded that he is not ready to show cause why he should not be punished for the failure to produce Genet in court yesterday, and the case has been adjourned till Monday next. The sheriff hopes to recapture the fugitive.

THE INDICTED COMMISSIONERS.

Bench warrants have been issued for the arrest of Conman, Norton, Miller and Walsh, the indicted court house commissioners. Norton and Miller have furnished their counsel, Judge A. J. Pitthridge, with a written authority to appear for them in the misdemeanor cases set down for trial on Friday.

FIRE RECORD.

Paper Mill Burned.

HARTFORD, CONN., December 23.—The large Manilla paper mill of C. A. Dexter & Sons, at Windsor Locks, was burned last night, together with a machine shop. The loss is estimated at $75,000. Insurance $50,000.

Extensive Fire in St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, December 23.—The Collier White Lead and Oil Company's works, corner of Clark avenue and Tenth street, caught fire at half past seven to-night, and all the manufacturing part of the extensive building was destroyed. The loss on machinery is about $80,000, on stock $10,000, and on the building $10,000; insured for $150,000. The names of the offices are not obtainable to-night.

CASUALTIES.

Lady Thrown From a Horse and Killed.

Special to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

MT. VERNON, OHIO, December 23, 1873.

Mrs. Joseph Rightmire, of this neighborhood, was instantly killed this evening by being thrown from a horse. She was on her way home, and when out about two miles from the city on the Delaware road, her horse took fright and threw her.

Relief for Chicago Workingmen.

CHICAGO, December 23.—Committees of the Common Council and workingmen of this city held a conference this afternoon, when it was shown that the city had little work to give. It was agreed to call on the Chicago Relief and Aid Society for $30,000 for the present needs. The conference adjourned to meet with the representatives of the society at four o'clock to-morrow evening.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Outstanding legal tenders amount to $376,234 932. The total of loan certificates is $8,355,000, a decrease, since Monday, of $470,000.

The wife of Alexander Agassiz, son of the late Professor Agassiz, died Monday night, of pneumonia, superinduced by fatigue in attendance upon her father-in-law.

On the application of the Arkansas State Treasurer, the Chancellor of Pulaski county yesterday placed the Fort Smith railroad in the hands of a receiver, pending the contest for possession of the road between the two boards of directors elected a few days ago.

All the leading gamblers of Omaha were arrested yesterday by the sheriff and will be prosecuted.

The first passenger train from New Orleans over the Mississippi Central Railroad, arrived at Cairo last evening and was transferred to the Illinois side. Regular passenger trains will run hereafter.

"Delicious, Indeed!"

Such will be the exclamation of those who, for the first time, partake of the new Ginger Fruit cake from the establishment of S. S. Marvin & Co., 91 and 93 Liberty street. Ask your grocer for them. All enterprising dealers keep them.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

France.

RUMORED FLIGHT OF BAZAINE.

PARIS, December 23.—A rumor is current here that Marshal Bazaine has fled the country. It is also reported that Rochefort died at New Caledonia.

RELATIONS WITH ITALY.

PARIS, December 23.—Chevalier Nigra, the Italian Minister, had an interview with President MacMahon to-day, and proposed the resumption of cordial relations between France and Italy.

OPPOSITION TO THE EUGENIE GRANT.

There is a strong opposition to the proposed grant of money to ex-Empress Eugenie.

BAZAINE GOES TO HIS PUNISHMENT.

PARIS, December 23.—The report of Bazaine's flight is unfounded. It is now stated that the ex-Marshal is to leave Paris to-night for Sainte Marguerite, his place of imprisonment.

England.

NO TRUTH IN IT.

LONDON, December 23.—There is no truth in the report that the British war ships in the West Indies have been ordered to Cuban waters.

DENIAL OF A NEW YORK STORY.

[Herald Cable Special.]

LONDON, December 23.—An official denial is given to the story of the New York *Times* that the English government had demanded the punishment of General Burriel.

Spain.

RE-OCCUPATION OF BISCAY.

MADRID, December 23.—Generals Moriones and Lema have re-entered the province of Biscay with 15,000 men.

Germany.

THE GOVERNMENT COMPLAINS OF FRENCH BISHOPS.

LONDON, December 23.—The *Daily News* reports that the hostile tone of recent pastorals issued by French Bishops has caused the German government to renew its complaints to France.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE EMPEROR—RUMOR OF HIS DEATH—EXCITEMENT OF THE PEOPLE.

LONDON, December 24.—A special from Berlin to the *Times* says, that in consequence of the alarming rumors in regard to the health of Emperor William, an anxious crowd filled the square opposite the royal palace last night. The people were assured from the balcony, that the Emperor was comparatively well, although confined to his room, but they refused to disperse. The *Standard* reports that rumors were persistently circulated yesterday of the Emperor's death. They are undoubtedly false, but it is certain that his Majesty is very ill.

Italy.

ANOTHER ALLOCUTION COMING.

ROME, December 23.—The Pope will deliver another allocution in the consistory on the 26th.

Marine News.

LIVERPOOL, December 23.—The steamships Dorau, Ferier e and Republic, from New York; Olympus, from Boston, and Austrian, from Portland, arrived out.

STATE NEWS.

There were 245 deaths in Philadelphia last week.

Benjamin Stamm, aged eighty years, died in Reading, on Saturday, of apoplexy.

A son of James Marburger, of Cressona, Schuylkill county, aged nine years, shot himself through the head while playing with a revolver.

Margaretta Conlin, aged seventy-nine years, was found dead in her bed, at the Schuylkill county almshouse, on the morning of the 20th instant.

Wilkesbarre can boast of a cheeky man His son was sick with the small-pox, and the father charged the town $224 for attending him, and that, too, after the town spent $180 on the case. The charge was repulsed with heavy loss.

It is rumored that a change will soon be made in the Lancaster postoffice. John W. Metzger is said to be the coming man.

"According to custom, no paper will be issued from this office next week," is the leading editorial in many of our country exchanges.

Contrary to expectation some months ago, the tobacco crop of Lancaster county is said to be a superior one, in size, flavor and yield to the acre.

A Norristown man has fifteen tons of manufactured yarn on hand.

A gang of chicken and produce thieves were recently committed to the Montgomery county jail for making a business of stealing from the farmers. They made their raids to a large extent on Dunkard families, who it is known are adverse to going to law. They broke into the school houses, minister's houses, and into spring houses of people belonging to this persuasion. Doubtless they had studied this matter scientifically and concluded that in stealing from non-resistants they would have the best chance of escaping the clutches of the law. In this they were slightly mistaken.

Jay Cooke's private residence at Chelton Hills, which cost over $3,000,000 to build, and some $200,000 a year to run, is, according to a statement of the Philadelphia corresponden of the Lancaster *Examiner*, about to be purchased by the Catholic Church and will be used as a convent. The building is said to be one of the finest structures of the kind in America.

Mr. Daniel K. Callender, an old and well known printer, died in Harrisburg on Sunday, of pneumonia, aged sixty-one years.

A consumptive lady died at Kittanning a week ago from the effects of fright, resulting from the high water entering the house during the flood a day or two before.

Thirteen persons who had lived to or beyond the age of eighty years died in Philadelphia last week, viz.: Harriet Bonham, aged 80; Mary Fiss, 80; Mary H. Rickards, 83; William Hutcheson, 81; Robert T. Potts, 84; Christiana Palmer, 85; Ann E. Garrett, 86; Hannah Waters, 86; Elizabeth Urian, 90; Susan Chambers, 92; Ambrose White, 94; Isabella T. Craft, 95; and Elizabeth Cunningham, 95.

There is said to be not a single log job now in operation in White township, Cambria county. The hard times have forced to sawmills to the financial pressure a few days ago, and the cessation of work at this industry will be a severe blow to the prosperity of that portion of our county.

Herman Kuhn, of Schuylkill county, has a document to which is attached the genuine signature of Napoleon I., who styles himself Emperor of the French, King of Italy and Protector of the Confederation of the Rhine, etc. The names of other high officers are attached to the paper.

A poor man was killed recently near Agnew's Mills, below St. Petersburg, by a falling limb, while trying to pick up a few ears of corn in the fields to keep his family from actual starvation. He was discovered after several hours absence by two of his children.

The Reading hat factories will arise from their nap on the first of the year and will make hats and caps for all.

Samuel B. Heffner, of Pottsville, has been in council since 1896 with the exception of one year. His age is nearly eighty.

The Schuylkill county bar is taking action looking to legislation increasing the number of return days and terms of Oyer and Terminer and Quarter Sessions Courts.

The surviving soldiers of the Mexican war residing in Blair county, will meet at Hollidaysburg, on Saturday next, for the purpose of electing delegates to a national convention of survivors which will assemble in Washington, D. C., on the 15th of January.

The Rev. E. J. Wolf, of Baltimore, has been elected to the Professorship of Church History in the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Among the lost by the sinking of the Ville du Havre were Xavier Bruy, wife and adopted child, of Lycoming county. Mr. Bruy was on his way to visit his mother in France.

The Lancaster *Examiner* says: There resides near Miller's Mill, close to the Junction, on the Reading Railroad, a couple, man and wife, who are said to be the oldest in the United States. The names of the couple are Joel and Mary Miller, the former being one hundred and the latter ninety-six years of age. The old folks are very affectionate toward each other, and are ready to answer the summons of the Great Father whenever He sees fit to call them home. There are many descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Miller residing in this county.

Thomas Costello was found dead in Williamsport on Monday morning, having fallen into a cellar window, it is supposed, while intoxicated.

The Sunbury *Daily* says that never within memory have there been so many accidents in the mines of Northumberland county as during the past eleven months of the current year.

John Wilds, of Mahanoy, Schuylkill county, died the other day from the effects of a beating he received a few weeks ago at the hands of a number of ruffians.

George Gessey, of Altoona, challenges Aleck McKnight and Henry Behen to shoot with him for the championship of Blair and Cambria counties, distance one hundred yards, to shoot off-hand, stakes fifty dollars a side.

Twenty-five destitute families are supported by the Y. M. C. A. of Altoona.

Mr. Henry W. Chase, for several years on the editorial staff of the Scranton *Republican*, died in Utica, New York, on Sunday, after a long illness. He was a young man of fine promise, and would, had he lived, have made his mark in the world.

A FAMINE IN BENGAL.

Half of the Supply of Food Exhausted.

A Frightful Prospect for Thirty Millions of People—Proposed Measures of Relief —One Hundred Millions Wanted.

CALCUTTA, December 20.—One-half of the supply of food in the province of Bengal has been exhausted, and it is now believed that a famine cannot be averted. Thus far there has been no actual distress among the people.

A FRIGHTFUL PROSPECT.

[Correspondence of the London *Times*.]

CALCUTTA, October 31.—I am afraid we are about to endure a famine in Bengal such as has never before been experienced in the history of our rule. The rains ceased prematurely in the middle of last month, just as they did in Orissa in 1865, while the previous fall had been unprecedentedly light. The result is that the great Aman rice crop, on which the people depend in the main, has failed almost all over Bengal, and nothing like an average eighty-anna crop will, I fear, be harvested. But this is not all. The drought has utterly prevented the sowing of the spring crop, and we have to face twelve months during which the people will have to be maintained out of the food reserves in the country plus this miserable failure of the Aman. The drought was felt over a very small area of the country in 1865, while this year it has marked the whole country from the Bay of Bengal right up to the borders of Oude. I believe I was the first to wake up to the real significance of the weather reports, but all are now equally alarmed alike. The worst tract in the country is the one that is most densely populated and the poorest of them all, Behar, with nearly 30,000,000 people to be fed. Owing to our miserable *laissez faire* notions in the past, we have left the zemindar and the usurer to reduce this people to positive slavery. The zemindar and his *amlah* (underlings) take ten sixteenths of the produce of the land—imagine that!—and the usurer steps in and takes the other six-sixteenths, and the people live upon the advances of the latter from one year's end to the other, throwing the most magnificent harvests of wheat, rice, opium, indigo, they themselves starve on the coarsest millets, and are as poor and miserable as can be conceived. The subject recently was strongly urged privately, but with all the force I could command, the only counsels that can save us from a very awful calamity, viz., the empowering the ryot to take the crops now in the field and the cold weather crops, surrounding all claims upon him for rent, advances, revenue, &c., for twelve months. If the customary misappropriation of these crops between zemindar and usurer takes place this year, nothing will save the people, I am persuaded, from perishing by millions. They have all been nursing the hope that rain might be sent, but now we are shown them by meteorological records of many years past that there is no reasonable hope of any, and the position at last begins to dawn upon them all. Campbell is at Patna; the Viceroy is on his way down to Calcutta, and all that can be done no doubt will be.

THE PROBLEM OF RELIEF.

A London correspondent, under date of the 4th, finds four points involved in the problem of relief: first, the quantity of food it will be necessary to import from without into the distressed districts; second, where this is to come from; third, the possibility of collecting and conveying it to central points within the famine area in sufficient time; fourth, the probable expense. It appears that on the most favorable supposition food must be imported for a population of 11,000,000 or 12,000,000, and that these numbers will have to be fed with such supplies for at least nine months. At one pound per head per day, which is the least that the Orissa Famine Commission, of which Sir G. Campbell was the chief, consider sufficient, this population would require for nine months 1,460,000 tons, which at £14 per ton (and it is more than doubtful whether rice can be laid down within reach of all at that rate), would cost the country about £12,000,000. How much of this will be provided by private speculation or benevolence, whether the government can, or will, bring such a pressure upon the zemindars, to whom the permanent settlement has so recklessly sacrificed for nearly a century past, as will compel them to disgorge a fair portion of their wealth for the relief of their starving tenantry, is quite uncertain. Those who know what has actually come to light in the last two years in regard to the illegal cesses levied by the zemindars of Orissa, and the extent that in the terrible famine of 1865, these men, with few exceptions, actually exacted full rents from their starving tenants, though the whole of their own rents were remitted by the government, will put little faith in the Association's talk about "private benevolence." We may safely assume that the government will have to meet at least half the expense, and that they should now be purchasing grain to the amount of £10,000,000 or £12,000,000 sterling. It is useless and worse to wait for certainty upon this point. Some estimate must be made, and that forthwith, and the government must act upon it without delay. Secondly, where are 1,460,000 tons of food to be got from? India, I believe, can supply the whole. The exports in ordinary years are about 1,000,000 tons, and surely the balance can be obtained from the population of 190,000,000 blessed with good crops? But if so the government must at once lay its hand upon the available surplus whether by prohibiting exports, or by offering to intending exporters better prices than they can get in foreign markets, or, if necessary, by collecting rents in kind, an expedient which is quite open to them. Without this there will be failing—perhaps another, to whatever extent it may be called into play, will certainly not act quickly enough for the emergency. Thirdly, as to the practicability of carrying such quantities of grain from the east, west, and south to the distressed districts, I entertain no doubt. I have been at the pains to make inquiries from the traffic managers of the two great railway companies in this country, and believe that it would be perfectly practicable to convey the whole quantity required from Calcutta alone by the East Indian line. The Ganges canal besides the Punjab and Jubbulpore lines, both single, indeed, and not capable of transporting any very large quantity. There is also the vast local traffic of the Ganges, amounting according to the last census, to 60,000 boats of all classes. Our means of transport are, therefore, sufficient. Lastly, as to the probable expense. It must be great; it must be a matter of millions. Let the government make up their minds to this at once; let there be no dallying, no delaying in hopes of rain, supposed concealed stocks (that rock on which the Bengal government made shipwreck in the year 1866,) private enterprise, etc. Let the government go in at once boldly for the purchase and transport to the spot of 1,000,000 tons of food, assured that everything will be forgiven but failure.

Woodward Turns State's Evidence—He is to Testify Against Mayor Hall.

E. A. Woodward, County Auditor when the Ring ruled, has consented to turn State's evidence. He has already returned to this city and given himself up to the authorities, and is now in the custody of one of the police captains. The District Attorney and his assistants, while admitting that Woodward is in the city, refuse to disclose his whereabouts. Negotiations between Woodward and Attorney General Barlow have been in progress for months past. It is asserted that Woodward has been promised immunity from punishment on condition of his giving testimony in all the Ring cases which yet remain to be tried. He will be used as a witness during the trial of ex-Mayor Hall, which will begin on Monday next. It is stated that Attorney General Barlow intended to surprise the defense by suddenly producing Woodward as a witness. It is asserted on trustworthy authority that Woodward is prepared to furnish all the missing links in the chain of testimony against the persons accused of fraud, and that his confession will be especially valuable as giving information regarding the division of the plunder. It is further alleged that he will implicate some person against whom no proof of crime has heretofore been developed, including two or three persons now holding high office.—*N. Y. Times.*

MRS. BURNHAM writes to the St. Louis *Republican* an account of her voyage in the Ville du Havre last summer. She says the ship was old and worn out, and was formerly the Napoleon III. She then predicted that it wouldn't be above water in 1874. She says:

"I sentitled the ship in half a dozen places with hairpins and paper cutters. I tell the unexaggerated truth when I say that lying on the sofa in stateroom No. 50, I dug into the junky wood, two or three inches away from the port hole, with a paper knife till I struck the glaring of iron that formed its outer coat. That iron plating was nowhere thicker than a frying-pan, and a determined little pilot-boat with a single nail at the prow could have cut through us and got out at the other side, if it didn't run into the cook or captain *en route*. When the Loch Earn gets into port, people will rush down to see the formidable agent of destruction. She will possess no such importance to me. I know how easy she did it, for I know what a crazy old shell the Ville du Havre was."

THERE seems no longer to be any doubt that the whole, or nearly the whole of the Swiss Jura District has gone over *en masse* to the old Catholic movement, expelled the Ultramontane clergy, and thrown off its spiritual subjection to Rome. This is the statement of a well-informed English correspondent, who says, further, that in view of the probable, expulsion of the priests, a French father, Abbie Deramy, who has been laboring in conjunction with Hyacinthe, has been raising a body of French clergy to take their place. In this mission he has succeeded to a considerable extent.

Mrs. Ellen Brubaker, aged fifty years, fell dead in her bedroom, at Lancaster, on Sunday. Dropsy of the heart was the cause.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Progress of National Legislation.

The Slow Congressional Machine.

Resume of What has been Done.

Probable Fate of the Bankrupt Act.

Committees at Work During Recess.

Amount of Official Postage.

Bird's-Eye View of Indian Affairs.

The Red Men a Source of Growing Expense

The Cost of Civilization.

Return of the President.

Legal Status of the Virginius.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 23, 1873.

The Work of Congress.

In the discussion of the resolution for adjournment in the Senate on Tuesday, Mr. Chandler remarked that Congress had been here three weeks; had increased the price of gold; had deranged business and done no work. The House had longer daily sessions than was ever before known in the first weeks of a session, and yet the whole time, nearly, was taken up with discussions of no advantage whatever to the country. The salary bill gave members an opportunity of explaining their action on that vexed question, only to the benefit of the constituencies at home. A vast deal of dirty linen was washed. The whole number of bills introduced in the House was 885, and in the Senate 220. A great majority of the money bills of a private character and next in order came the financial propositions. Mr. Sumner led off in the Senate with his (Sill Rights bill, and the first twenty bills referred in the House had reference to the salary question. The bills which passed both houses were: the bill for the redemption of the loan of 1858; the bill relating to limitation of steam pressure for vessels used for towing and carrying freight on the Western rivers; the bill to relieve Messrs. Bocock, Reagan and others of their political disabilities; the bill appropriating $4,000,000 for the navy; a bill to amend the internal tax act; a joint resolution to change the name and title of the United States Agent and Consul General to Egypt; a bill to continue in use certain distilleries after changes in the management of the business.

Bills Passed by the House.

The House passed the bills to repeal the salary act; to repeal the bankrupt law; the bill increasing the enlistments in the navy to 10,000 men; a bill for general amnesty and the repeal of the iron-clad oath; a bill changing the time and places of holding courts in Iowa and a number of private acts. If, instead of wrangling for nearly two weeks over the salary question, the House had taken up some of the great financial questions that insist be met sooner or later, and had had a discussion advised the country what legislation they might expect; or if they had taken some intelligent action on the Cuba-Spanish question, members admit that they would have stood more fairly and creditably before the country, for, viewed in many respects, the salary question was a purely personal one.

Bills Introduced, &c.

Many of the Senators feel dissatisfied that they should have adjourned before taking some action on the Bankrupt bill, for all the information received here must have convinced Senators and Representatives that the country demanded some relief in that direction, and that right speedily. In this regard the House was active, prompt, and had a Senate would have been much more creditably engaged if it had taken some action upon it, instead of wrangling over Pinchback's senatorial aspirations.

Committees Remaining at the Capital.

A large number of members have already left the city for their homes and others will follow in a few days. The members of the Committees on Ways and Means, Appropriation and Elections will very generally remain here to prepare matters to be presented immediately after the recess. The Committee on Elections is especially anxious to dispose of as many contested cases as possible early in January.

Official Postage.

In accordance with a resolution passed a few days ago, the departments are all engaged in the preparation of statements showing the amount of expense incurred in the purchase of postage stamps since the abolition of the franking privilege. Most of them will also state nearly as possible the expense under the old system, and will show, that while the revenues of the Postoffice Department have been greatly increased, there has really been no saving to the government.

Condition of Indian Affairs.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in conversation to-day, remarked that there was no doubt about increased expenditures, but that the responsibility of the government, every year became greater. As the Indian country became settled it was impossible for Indians to find subsistence in the chase and, hence, to prevent trouble, the government undertook to feed them, which was a very expensive item.

What it Costs.

The total amount appropriated for the Indian service, current and contingent expenses, fulfilling treaties with Indian tribes and paying the interest on the Trust Fund stock, was nearly seven millions and could not be accomplished on less without increasing expenditures in another direction, by warring upon them.

The Civil Service.

He said the purchase of rations increased as the Indian came into the first stages of civilization, which was to consent to eat white man's beef. During the past few years the Kiowas, a majority of the bands of Comanches, the Apaches, Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Sioux have evinced a desire for reservations and been supplied with rations by the government.

Number of Dependents Increasing.

Admitting that the race is declining, the Commissioner said that the number on the hands of the government has largely increased. During the coming winter, he says, at least twenty-five per cent. more Sioux will have to be fed. The Apaches also are being driven in by the military operations of General Crook. The Comanches have also increased. The Modocs, of Oregon and Kickapoos, of Mexico, now in the Indian Territory, also swell the number. In view of these facts, the Commissioner will be unable to recommend a reduction, and fears that there will be necessity for an additional appropriation.

Return of the President.

The President returned to-day on the Western train, reaching the Executive Mansion at noon. There were but few callers at the White House to-day and the President only accorded interviews in two or three instances.

No Cabinet Meeting.

The usual Cabinet meeting was not held, but the President was closeted during the day with the Secretary of War, the Attorney General and the Assistant Secretary of State.

Legal Status of the Virginius.

The President had not read, until to-day the opinion of Attorney General Williams on the status of the Virginius, but it is now known that the conclusions there drawn have been the opinion of the administration even before the signing of the protocol by Secretary Fish and Admiral Polo. But even with the knowledge of the true character of the Virginius before them, the President and the Secretary of State did not hesitate for an instant in their determination to uphold the honor and dignity of our flag. No matter what the character of the Virginius was, the action of her Spanish captors was such as, in the opinion of our government, demanded the prompt and decided measures which it took, and, as the government holds, it was and is for it to deal with the Virginius, and not for Spain. In regard to the preposterous claim for damages which it is said Spain will set up, our government holds that view that there is no foundation for any such claim and that it fears no such analogy to our claim against Great Britain as would justify it in even entertaining a proposition to submit it to arbitration.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 23, 1873.

OBSERVANCE OF HOLIDAY WEEK.

All the departments will be closed at noon during the holiday week.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT KNOWS ABOUT WILLIAMS.

The Presidents stated emphatically to-day that the nomination of Attorney General Williams for Chief Justice would not be withdrawn, and that he had never contemplated such a thing.

THE DURRELL INVESTIGATION.

Representatives Wilson and Eldridge, of the Judiciary Committe, will leave here on Saturday for New Orleans. It is their intention, while avoiding State politics and complications, to investigate all the acts of the Federal court which it is charged taint Judge Durrell's official conduct.

MR. STEPHENS INTERVIEWED.

A colored deputation, composed of George F. Downing, Frederick Douglass and others, had an interview to-day, by appointment, with Representative A. H. Stephens, of Georgia. Mr. Stephens freely admitted that colored men, as citizens, were entitled to full protection in their civil rights without any invidious proscription, but that it was the duty of the respective States, and not that of the Federal government, to act in order to secure them.

POLITICAL.

California.

ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATOR.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 23.—Judge Hager, of this city, the anti-railroad candidate for the United States Senate for the short term, was elected to-day at Sacramento on the second ballot.

The Wright county *Times* asks the incoming Minnesota Legislature to reduce the per diem of its members to three dollars, on the ground that it is more than they could earn at home.

It has been remarked that the Democrats are very zealous for civil service reform in those States where they are in the minority, but where the elections have given them the power of patronage, they carefully practice the sharing of the spoils among the victors. They are consistent only in urging civil service reform so far as it may gratify their keen appetite for office.—*N. Y. Witness.*

The Dayton *Journal* says: The Louisville *Courier-Journal* entertains the opinion that if Grant is a great man, "America ought to wind up her establishment for the manufacture of great men, and go to manuling rails." The *C.-J.* seems to have overlooked the little fact that Grant developed into a great man while mauling rebels, of which the editor of the *C.-J.* was one of whom. In the opinion of that concern, Lee was great, Joe Johnson was great, and other Confederate chieftains were great. Grant outgeneraled and outfought the whole lot of them, and yet, according to the *C.-J.*, he is small potatoes. These "great" people of the South, who got thrashed so outrageously by our little men, seem totally unconscious of their foolishness in the sort of babble we have quoted.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24, 1 A. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For the interior of New England and the Middle States, clear or clearing weather, with but slight changes of temperature and light variable winds. For the Southern States east of the Mississippi, slowly increasing pressure with low temperature and cloudy weather on the immediate South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, northerly to easterly winds with light rain will prevail. For the Middle Atlantic coast, fresh to brisk northerly to westerly winds, with clearing weather. For the Lower Lake region and thence southward to Kentucky, generally clear weather with light variable winds and rising temperature. For the Upper Lake region and the Northwest, cloudy weather and light snow from northern Michigan westward to Minnesota. For the central region of New York and Pennsylvania, freezing weather will continue during Wednesday.

Midnight Bulletin.

DECEMBER 23, 1873—10:48 P. M.

PLACE OF OBSERVATION.	Ther.	Wind.	Weather.
Cairo, Ills.	34	S. W.	Fair.
Cincinnati, O.	35	Calm.	Clear.
Davenport, Iowa.	35	Calm	Cloudy.
Keokuk, Iowa.	36	Calm.	Cloudy.
Leavenworth, Ks.	26	Calm.	Cloudy.
Louisville, Ky.	35	Calm.	Clear.
Memphis, Tenn.	37	N. E.	Cloudy.
Nashville, Tenn.	38	Calm.	Cloudy.
New Orleans, La.	51	Calm.	Cloudy.
Omaha, Neb.	29	W.	Cloudy.
Pittsburgh, Pa.	39	Calm.	Clear.
St. Louis, Mo.	38	Calm.	Fair.
*Vicksburg, Miss.	42	N. E.	Cloudy.
*Shreveport, La.	40	E.	Cloudy.
Indianapolis.	35	Calm.	Clear.
Pike's Peak.	—7	N.	Clear.
Galveston.	44	N. E.	Cl. Rain.
Shreveport, La.	40	E.	Cloudy.
Last reading.	39	S.	Cloudy.
St. Paul.	24	N.	Snowy.
Yankton.	23	N. W.	Cloudy.
Ft. Sully.	20	N. W.	Clear.

*7 P. M. Observation.

Philadelphia Striking Wearfmen.

PHILADELPHIA, December 23.—About two hundred strikers marched along the docks to-day, endeavoring to induce the men working at reduced rates, but returned to-day, being intimidated by the violence offered by their companions last night.

Death of a well known Telegrapher.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 23.—Charles F. Simmons, a well known telegrapher of New York and for many years connected with the fire-alarm telegraph of this city, died last night of heart disease.

The Trial of Bishop Cummins.

Bishop Smith, of Kentucky, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, has selected the board of inquiry into the charges preferred against Bishop Cummins. The place of meeting is required to be in Kentucky, at such time and place as designated by Bishop Smith. The choice of the board was determined by lot. The following are the members:

Kentucky—Clerical: The Rev. James Craik, D. D., and the Rev. William H. Platt. Lay: Messrs. William Cornwall and Samuel B. Churchill.

Ohio—Clerical: The Rev. John Ufford, D. D., and the Rev. James Lewis Barton, D. D. Lay: Messrs. John W. Andrews and Augustus H. Moss.

Indiana—Clerical: The Rev. Benjamin Franklin, D. D., and the Rev. George J. Magill. Lay: Messrs. John S. Irwin, M. D., and William H. Morrison.

Tennessee—Clerical: The Rev. John A. Harrison, D. D., and the Rev. James Carlisle Lay: Messrs. George R. Fairbanks and John F. Jett.

After the Battle.

A couple of provincial partisans, aware that their constituencies see them from afar, call each other hard names on the floor of the House, and a few minutes afterward greet each other in the restaurant below, over an oyster stew or a whisky cocktail, with the significant wink and nudge which betokens that these two understand each other if the public do not. The amenities of the restaurant, like a sponge, wipe out the traces of political feud, real or pretended, and the gallerier are put upon. Macbeth avowed that it was amusing to deceive the people, and these buncombe orators doubtless share his opinion. To confront each other on the floor like two relentless gladiators, and then sup together, to clink glasses in a pair of Tenier's tavern hummers, furnishes a pleasure something akin to eating stolen fruit.—*From "Speech-making in Congress," by Albert Rhodes, Scribner's for January.*

MAN'S ingenuity in devising schemes to make money is marvelous. We have just heard of the "file fillers." It seems that there are a dozen or two persons in New York city who save all the papers that come into their possession. During January they make frequent visits to the book binderies and offer to supply any papers necessary to complete files. The fillers receive evidence that months hundreds of periodicals to bind and in many cases some numbers are missing. The "file fillers" then are in demand, and they sell their wares at an advance of over 1,000 per cent. on cost.

Money Wanted.

Indianapolis wants to sell $500,000 of city bonds, payable in twenty years, at a liberal rate of interest, and is unable to do it. Indianapolis is not alone in the want of money. New York wants it. New England wants it. All the West and South want it, and only one in a hundred of corporations or people get what they want. The best remedy is to have fewer wants, or to want more of reasonable contentment and try to find it. As it is just now, where misery loves company it has plenty of it and none to spare.—*N. Y. Express.*

Great Inducements for Cash

For flour and all kinds of groceries at the Checkered Front.

New Patent.

The Great White River Flour is now being made under a new patent and is said to be giving general satisfaction. It is now the leading brand in this market.

☞ *Advertisements on this page, under the several heads of* WANTED, FOR SALE, FOR RENT, *&c., will be inserted at transient rates only*—TEN CEN

The Daily Commercial.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1873.

THE Scranton *Republican* talks of "taming" SAM. COX. As well might one undertake to domesticate the Irishman's legendary flea.

IN the Wisdom of SOLOMON, it is written that "the liberal soul shall be made fat." There is in all the year no better season than Christmas in which to test the sure truth of the great and beautiful utterance.

AN Eastern contemporary thinks that "nobody ought to find fault with General BUTLER'S occasional slashes at the press." Nobody does. It is as incuous as a dog's howling at the moon. Is it likely that the moon feels perturbed thereby?

IT is hinted that the majority of the Boiler Explosions Commission, whose experiments have been suspended till next spring, are of opinion that the prime cause of boiler explosions is "the inefficiency or carelessness of persons placed in charge of them."

DURING the brief period of its session, Congress has given us opinions without number on all imaginable kinds of subjects. This is all very well in its way; but the people have had a surfeit of opinions. What they want now is convictions—to see their representatives living their faith straight out.

SHOULD the escaped Tammany convict, GENET, succeed in eluding the clutches of the outraged law, it is supposed he will, from his safe retreat, devote his elegant leisure to the preparation of a work lamenting the rapid tendency of the present administration toward Cæsarism, and bewailing the universal corruption and profligacy of the Republican party at large.

IF the mercenary spirit of Congress shall lend that body to defy the temper of the American people with respect to the salary grab—members are, of course, welcome to the brazen and vulgar distinction. They may, however, as well make up their minds to the fact that the political career of every one of them who returns to his constituents with any salary increase or back-swag in his pocket, is finished. That is all.

APROPOS of the loss of the Ville du Havre, it is a somewhat noticeable fact that shipwreck is a feature in literature of peculiar power, as witness SHAKSPEARE in the "Tempest," MILTON in "Lycidas," and then FALCONER, SHELLEY and BYRON in the later days. WARBURTON, a noted English tourist, also gave an imaginary scene in one of his works, of a ship burned at sea, and subsequently experienced similar horrors in the burning of the Amazon, in which he perished.

THE Philadelphia *North American* congratulates itself that, now that Philadelphia has voted in accord with the rest of the State, there will be less prejudice against that city in the interior and a stronger inclination to believe that some good may be expected from it. So long, however, as that city continues to furnish men who delight in representing it as a foul nest of unclean birds, so long will the people of the interior be willing to lend an ear to their vilification. If the city has a blackened reputation anywhere, the evil word against it came first from its own citizens.

WESTEND on the threshold of Christmas. It is not so easy a matter to retain fast hold of those affections and sympathies which keep men from becoming hard and pitiless. Christmas helps us to do this. It compels people, by its tender and hallowed associations and significances, to recognize the comprehensive fact that there are other people in the world beside themselves, and so conduces to sweet ends. For a week, at least, let everybody, high and low, rich and poor, encourage to the full the Christmas spirit and sanction, and try to diffuse its sentiments as broadly as the Universal Love which crowns and consecrates the benignant season.

IT is stated on good authority that neither President GRANT nor any of his Cabinet officers will offer intoxicating beverages to New Year's callers; while the Vice President, with many Senators and Representatives and several Judges and Governors, have authorized the following expression:

"In view of the evils resulting from drinking customs widely prevalent at the holiday season, we earnestly desire that the friends of morality and good order may see fit not to include intoxicating beverages in their Christmas and New Year's hospitalities."

Wholesome example and an excellent suggestion, the first of which might be imitated, and the second observed, with marked advantage and benefit in every home in the land.

THE more thoroughly the postal telegraph scheme is considered, the more cogent do the reasons why it ought not to be adopted, appear. The plan, if carried out, will entail the purchase by the government of all privileges at present held by the Western Union and other telegraph companies; and the question naturally arises whether MR. CARSWELL and his friends contemplate fulfilling all the contracts made by the controllers of the lines with the railroad companies, corporations and private individuals, some of which contracts extend indefinitely, and would require the genius of a Philadelphia lawyer to interpret. The opinion seems to be steadily gaining ground that the Postmaster General does not comprehend the actual situation of affairs at all.

FROM all parts of our coasts come similar cheering reports of the revival of ship building. We have repeatedly referred to the prosperous condition of the iron ship building industries of our own and other States. With regard to the construction of wooden vessels the increase is equally marked and encouraging. Thus, the number of tons built of building in California this year is five thousand four hundred and seventy-six, against less than two thousand last year, while reports from the shipyards of Maine show that in that State alone the increase amounts to a hundred and twenty per cent. more than the tonnage built last year, with an approximate value of nearly five millions dollars. The year will close with one of the most prosperous eras in ship building known for nearly twenty years.

THAT organized iniquity called Tammany is now engaged in illustrating the meaning of HAMLET'S assertion that conscience makes cowards of us all. It has at length discovered that "great public wrongs have been committed by individuals holding high official positions," and has the hypocritical effrontery to "congratulate the people of New York city and county on the vindication of the law." The law is *not* vindicated—that is to say, not thoroughly. Much, it is true, has been accomplished in that direction, but more remains behind; since the scoundrelly members of the "ring," who are yet out of prison, are as ten to one of the felons on whom the penitentiary gates have closed. Perhaps, however, a more forcible illustration of the truth of the old saying that hypocrisy is the homage which vice pays to virtue, was never given.

LATE mail advices from England state that the price of coals in that country is rapidly coming down, and that the rates will probably next summer not be very much beyond the old standard. Of course this result has been helped on by another cause. The high prices have given a stimulus to coal mining. Old mines have been reopened; new shafts have been sunk; searches for coal have been pushed on in all directions. Thus, while the demand has been diminishing the supply has been increasing. Taken altogether, it may almost be inferred that the coal famine has been rather an advantage to that country than otherwise; inasmuch as there can be no question that, however a large and rapid consumption may suit coal owners who are in a hurry to realize, economy in consumption is the true rule for the nation at large.

THE government Directors of the Union Pacific Railroad made their annual report to the Secretary of the Interior yesterday. The condition of the road is said to have been vastly improved since the last annual examination, and it is thought the line can be made to earn $12,000,000 gross per annum, with no exertion beyond reasonably good management. Calculating the operating expenses at 55 per cent. of the receipts, it is estimated that the $12,000,000 will pay the interest on the first mortgage, income and government subsidy bonds, besides affording five per cent. of the net earnings to the sinking fund for redeeming the subsidy debt, and leave $700,000 for dividend on the stock. The earnings last year were $9,000,000. The road is declared to be completed within the meaning of the act which applies five per cent. of the net earnings to a sinking fund to redeem the United States subsidy bonds—a better showing, upon the whole, than had been looked for.

WE see it stated that the bill introduced last winter by Mr. HOAR, of Massachusetts, providing for a commission of five members to investigate the so called "Labor Question," is likely to be revived, and, perhaps, passed during the present session of Congress. The labor organizations will advocate it, as also will those self-sacrificing patriots who would like to investigate to the tune of five thousand dollars a year, with traveling expenses, and think they can get appointed as commissioners. The proposition is ill-timed. The calm, but imperative demand of the people is, that nothing which is avoidable shall be done to increase the public outlay, and that the expenditures of the government shall be reduced to the lowest possible limit consistent with the interests of the public service, and the honor and dignity of the nation. If Congress does not choose to recognize this simple fact, so much the worse for itself when the day of reckoning arrives.

METHODISM IN GERMANY.

About a score of years ago or somewhat less, the American Methodists established what is called a Mission in Germany. This enterprise appears to have met with considerable success, and at present consists, we believe, of several "stations," or centers of operation, with a theological school for the preparation of preachers. Two or three Sundays ago, a "missionary," perhaps a missionary bishop, who has spent some years in this German religious work, gave, in one of the Pittsburgh churches of his sect, an account of his labors in this "foreign field," and of the difficulties and encouragements with which it is encompassed. The narrative seems to have been decidedly offensive to at least one German who heard it, and as he has more than once given expression to his disgust through the press, it is likely to have enlisted the sympathy of many. Not having heard the discourse referred to, we are quite unable to say whether it was marked by discrimination, tact, sense and knowledge, or by the opposite qualities. From the German criticism of it, its chief offense appears to have consisted in the prevalent assumption, frankly expressed indeed, that Germany, the old land of the Reformation and the home of science and erudition, may receive religious light and social refinement from this side of the Atlantic.

We have no doubt that the critic has wholly failed to catch the point of view occupied by the speaker whom he criticises, and by the really earnest portion of the audience whom the speaker addressed. They were thinking of doctrines which, as they believe, no science or scholarship is able in its own strength to comprehend, and which no merely human intellect or energy is able in its own strength to impart. JOHN WESLEY, the founder of Methodism, was an accomplished scholar in his day, Fellow of an Oxford college, and at the same time so full of zeal for the propagation of the Christian faith as to undertake a mission to the Indian savages of Georgia. And, yet, according to his own account, he first learned the real import of the faith he was going to preach, from some poor German mechanics, Moravians, his fellow voyagers on the ship which was bearing him to his chosen field of labor. He afterwards made the then long and difficult journey to the headquarters of the Moravian sect in Saxony, merely to receive more perfect instruction in those great truths, as they seemed to him. Though WESLEY'S views on the subject of Moravian theology underwent some change, he was permanently influenced by its spirit, and he substantially adopted (with many additions, however), and through his long life practically carried out much of the missionary method of the sect. At a time when Germany was rightly or wrongly regarded in England as a less civilized country upon the whole, and when the so-called lower orders in England were really in a semi-barbarous condition, German Moravians and English Methodists, laboring among them for purely religious ends, were, in fact, the missionaries of civilization. Nothing is more certain, it is now generally admitted, that no other single influence did so much to elevate the English laboring classes in the eighteenth century, to teach them self-respect, self-restraint, wise foresight and economy in worldly affairs as the religious teaching and religious organization of WESLEY and his associates. And even until the present day, in despite of retrogression or degeneration in some respects, the system in England is admitted to be a powerful agency in the promotion of personal refinement and social welfare in sections of society less accessible to other influences. It is not wholly for Christian teaching, as already intimated, that these effects are claimed as results, as much of the influence of a Methodist society is, of course, the result of its rather complicated organization, by which the members are subjected to constant supervision and control—a system which seemed to Lord MACAULAY so admirably adapted to its purpose and so effectual that he declared JOHN WESLEY an administrator second only to RICHELIEU.

How well suited the system may be to Germany we do not know, but certainly there is neither presumption nor impertinence in assuming that possibly it may there produce the good results it has accomplished elsewhere.

LESSON STILL TO LEARN.

In the movements of laborers out of work, which threaten the peace and order of several American cities, one of the greatest difficulties with which European governments have to contend, is brought vividly home to the American people. In consideration of the resources of the country in comparison with the extent of destitution, we cannot regard the peril as great. At least for the present, our ordinary police will doubtless suffice to prevent anarchy. It is, however, impossible not to think of the future with some misgivings, in the presence of such demonstrations as the laborers have made in New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and Chicago. In all these cases the workmen most conspicuous in the meetings and directing the proceedings, have been foreigners of recent immigration. In their formal speeches and resolutions, as well as in their street cries, they show that they are thoroughly imbued with notions and theories which could hardly have been either formed or very long entertained by industrious American citizens. Evidently their ideas of the functions of government must have been derived from experience of the paternal system. They demand that the government shall furnish them with work, or at any rate with food, and the plea of some of them is that, as they helped and saved the government in its time of need, one good turn deserves another. Of course, men who thus reason have as yet caught no glimpse of the truth that the American government is a mere representative of the people, a servant having neither property nor power underived from the people. They think still of the government as they thought of it in their old home, as a high and mighty personage invested with all authority and boundless wealth, in its own right, and as therefore having incurred great and imperative obligations towards those who at any time have rendered it a service. These poor men have still to learn, at least to realize, that in saving the American government from destruction, they were merely saving themselves and maintaining their own right to labor and enjoy the fruits of their labor. They have still to realize the blessedness of living under a free instead of a paternal government. Indeed they may never learn the lesson, but their children, we may trust, will learn it. Certainly, unless they do, there will be a poor chance for either government or property, fifty or a hundred years hence.

THE VIRGINIUS.

The legal opinion of the Attorney General, that the Virginius was not an American vessel, and was flying the American flag in violation of our laws, destroys all the beautiful rhetoric to which we have been treated about the flag, its sacredness, and the necessity for flying to arms to vindicate it. The great wrong to our flag was committed by the Virginius itself, in attempting to carry on a piratical trade under its protection; and the national concern for it should have been directed against those who perjured their souls to gain the chance of descrating it.

While, however, the Attorney General is clear on this point, he is equally clear that the Spanish had no right to overhaul and capture the Virginius in the open sea. The offense against our law committed by the buccaneers on board of her, was one to be dealt with by the United States alone. Spain has no mission to enforce our laws, or to set herself up as a judge of their violation. The capture of the Virginius, therefore by a Spanish war vessel, in the open sea, was as much an interference with our national rights as if the vessel had rightfully carried our flag. Spain, consequently, has no right to demand the restoration of the Virginius, as a result of this adjudication against the nationality of that vessel. Having had no right to capture her, originally, she has no right to demand her restoration.

The decision of the Attorney General tells as much, in this view, against Spain as against the Cuban sympathizers; but its main importance consists in its impartiality and candid fairness. That, in an international case of this magnitude, the chief law officer of the nation should apparently rule the main legal question against the government, must excite as much surprise abroad, as admiration; and the coolness and firmness which has saved the nation from the cost and disgrace of a bloody war, into which at one time we seemed to be plunging headlong, on account of the capture of this vessel, cannot be too much commended or too highly prized.

MR. JOHN D. BAILEY, who is a candidate before Councils to-day for Controller, has been confounded with JOHN H. BAILEY, Esq., the assignee of the Nation Trust Company. Mr. JOHN D. BAILEY is a Republican, and Mr. JOHN H. BAILEY is a Democrat. We do not mention this fact to the latter's discredit, but only to prevent one from being mistaken for the other. Mr. JOHN D. BAILEY was an active Republican as early as 1856, and has remained such to the present time, to our personal knowledge. He headed the great FREMONT procession, in this city, as Chief Marshal, in 1856, and his political faith remains as firm to-day as then.

As stated in another article, we express no opinion as to who should be chosen Controller; but as the person chosen will be a Republican, it is due to Mr. JOHN D. BAILEY that a similarity in name should not lead to confounding him with one who is known to be a Democrat.

CITY CONTROLLER.

The Councils will meet, this afternoon, to choose a Controller, to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of Mr. MCGOWAN; and no weightier duty ever fell upon the members of that body than the one they will have to discharge in making that selection. The Controller is the balance-wheel in the financial machinery of the city; and it is of the utmost importance to the city that the man chosen should be one whose name will carry confidence to the hearts of the tax-payers. We name no names, and we urge no one above another; but we desire to impress upon the minds of Councilmen that the occasion requires of them care, discrimination and a close attention to the qualifications of the various candidates. The Controller should be a good accountant, to begin with; but not *merely* an accountant. The office requires a man of strong will and unyielding firmness, as well as a large acquaintance with the interests of the city. The capacity to say "No!" at the right time and in the right way is, in such a place, absolutely indispensable.

THE escape of GENET, the convicted Democratic member of Assembly in New York, and the failure of all the other ring thieves to come forward when called for trial, are proofs that the plunderers give up all further hope of resisting the law, and have concluded that the safest way for themselves is to keep out of reach. They confess their guilt by thus absconding, but that was already too plain to be longer denied.

MAYOR HALL, it is true, still stands his ground, and will go to trial; but this is may be mere bravado. If he can clear his skirts of guilt, however, he is right in facing the matter boldly.

The Democratic Sheriff of New York, who deliberately permitted GENET to escape from his hands will, doubtless, be made to suffer severely for his act. The judge who tried GENET is not a man to be trifled with by such a creature as Sheriff BRENNAN, as that officer will soon learn to his cost.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

This is the time in which to remember that the little child in the manger, weak and poor, has shown more power in this world than all the heroes, the conquerors, the poets and those who seem to be miraculous. He overtops them all.

When Emerson said that the gift should be a part of the giver, did he have Christmas in his mind? At least he expresses what every one who has given truly or received gratefully feels.

The distinguishing characteristic of Agassiz was that he found harmony and order in a pebble, in the fin of a fish, in sea-stars, and the tiniest creatures that live in the depths or run and fly in the sun, not less than in the vast sequences of our geological strata, and the multitudinous kinships in whole families, tribes and races of living things.

It is good for everybody at this season to remember their friends; but it is good also to remember the friendless. If there is any time in the year when it is especially inopportune to forget the poor and wretched, it is the hallowed Christmas time.

Photography is to be taught in the Boston Girls' High School. Teaching sewing and cooking would perhaps be better.

Oakey Hall's social status, as well as his mental qualities, were much higher than those of Tweed and his ring confederates, and if judgment should overtake him, also, in his present trial, the fact will create a far wider and deeper impression than any that has preceded it.

John Hay has written some virile verses in his time, but his poem on Isabella and Eugenie, in the January *Scribner*, is mere civilized drivel.

Genet having filched what money he could from the State and city of New York, ended by stealing himself.

This is a good season in which to cultivate the art of conversation in families. This would tend to develop attachment to the home, which is sadly wanting in many households, besides promoting the education of children.

One of the oldest and largest medical societies in the United States, the of the county of New York, which embraces the leading physicians of the city, has taken a commendable step in recognizing women doctors who have graduated in regular schools.

The Commissioner of Agriculture publishes a notice requesting people not to send money for the annual reports of his department for 1872 and 1873, as their publication has not been authorized, and they will not be for sale when they are published, but will be distributed like other public documents.

It is proposed to add one hour a day—they are now six—to the office time at Washington, and thus greatly reduce the force of clerks and so save expenses.

Woman suffrage is declining in England. The Liberal party originally supported the movement; but it is found that, so far, the women who have voted on the basis of property qualifications, develop into full grown Tories as surely as the pollywog becomes a frog.

There are now no less than three histories of Illinois, in various stages of preparation, by eminent citizens of that State.

The New York papers are sounding the alarm at the dangers which threaten the harbor of that city, and showing by professional evidence that prompt remedial action is necessary if the port expects to retain her commercial eminence.

The shipment of oysters from Long Island to the London market has been undertaken. A newly formed company made their first consignment during the past week.

There is no other State in the Union, having the population and territory of Pennsylvania, that has so small a debt.

The "intelligent contraband" and "the reliable gentleman" of war times have a successor just now in "the experienced banker," who is loaded to the muzzle with schemes for the relief of our financial ills.

The latest proposition is that two cent postal cards shall be issued, on which the receiver of a message may send a reply without cost to himself.

The Democratic State Committee of Maine are preparing for the regular yearly defeat of the party. They will hold their annual session on Thursday, January 8.

The despicable leaven of caste is yet working against the rights of the colored race. A black man was the other day taken to a Brooklyn hospital in a dying condition, and there refused admittance by the officer in charge, on the ground of color.

There has been a terrible mishap in the household of the Bourbon Governor-elect of Ohio. A negro coachman in his employ has eloped with one of the white maid-servants, and married her.

There is every prospect that nearly the entire amount of the loan of 1868 will be exchanged for new five per cents.

Virginia is making some contributions to literature. Fiber, for paper-making, is now manufactured in quantity from the cane or reeds which grow so abundantly in the Dismal Swamp.

A company is organizing in London for the purpose of purchasing large tracts of land in the mineral region of West Virginia. They propose to sell farms, clear off timber, and work mines, of coal, iron and other minerals.

The German empire, Belgium, Ecuador, Mexico and Hayti have formally accepted invitations to participate in the Centennial Exhibition. Little Ecuador is so enthusiastic over it that the government has already made the necessary appropriation.

Having got out of the Virginius scrape at the risk of war and the cost of five millions, the next thing to do manifestly is to clap our claw on the whole fleet of filibusters.

Plymouth Church is fiercely loyal to its masters, and malcontents, no matter how influential in the past, are being retired as rapidly as possible to back seats.

The Howard Association of Memphis has struck a balance sheet, and finds itself the possessor of $35,000, which it has decided to hold in reserve for future emergencies.

Governor Campbell, of Wyoming Territory, is satisfied with woman suffrage, and strongly indorses it in his message.

It is a curious fact that while AGASSIZ, the profoundest scientist of the age, should maintain in the January *Atlantic*, that all the observed data prove the permanency of types, and that the evolution theory is, in short, an ingenious work of the imagination, the *Popular Science Monthly* of the same date should contain an article by a clergyman in defense of the evolution theory, and attributing its non-acceptance among his brother clergymen to "an unfortunate but very general want of scientific training."

TRAVELING GOSSIP.

Æsthetic Reflections—A Glimpse of Buffalo—A Resurrected Friend—Rochester, Syracuse, Oswego—An Olla-podrida of Statistics, Intimations, &c.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

OSWEGO, N. Y., December 18, 1873.

There are some things wherein wishing is having. As the soul is filled, so the eye discerns; and when one travels four or five hundred miles in quest of wholesome enjoyment, he is pretty apt to discover the object of his search, even if it does chance to lurk hidden away in so semi-arctic a region as Oswego, in the middle of hyperborean December.

It is singular, too, how cheerily and felicitously even apparently untoward events and circumstances conspire in favor of those whose natures are in a summer mood. Thus, being unavoidably detained for some hours in Buffalo while en route here, I chanced, in a mere drifting vein, to saunter from the railroad depot up town, and was rewarded therefor with the happiness of meeting, on the street, a very intimate and cherished journalistic friend of by-gone years, whom, misled by a false rumor of the time, I had long mourned as dead. The sudden rencontre was as pleasant as surprising—all the more beautiful, indeed, for its gracious unexpectedness. Some of the most fragrant delights of existence dawn upon us wholly unawares. It was a bleak day, and the icy sleet fell fast; but we did not in the least feel the cold. There is a great deal of warm fuel in true friendship. And so the laggard hours of my wintry detention became transfigured into fleet-winged moments of June.

In company with the friend thus strangely restored to me, I visited the offices of the Buffalo *Express* and *Courier*. The former is one of the most sterling Republican journals in the State of New York; strong, rather than brilliant; poised, prudent, certain alike of its principles and its facts; an earnest and able champion of a great and worthy cause. The *Courier*, too, is conducted with much dignity and ability; and if its political doctrines were as intrinsically valuable as its merits in other particulars are marked, it would be, and deserve to be, a vital lifting power in the city and State where published.

Buffalo is not so well off in the matter of newspapers as is Pittsburgh; perhaps for the reason that, while the latter city is the centre of a wide circle of journalistic territory, the former is stuck away off in a cramped little corner of the country, with numerous populous and enterprising newspaper-creating and sustaining cities impinging, as it were, upon it on different sides. So far as the inspiration and culture which inhere in art and literature are concerned, however, Buffalo leads the Smoky City a long way. It has two public libraries, both of which are equipped with excellent breadth and comprehensiveness, while its art gallery quite outstrips the pretensions of your town in a similar regard. Art and literature are two of Civilization's best handmaids. The beautiful is not less high than the good; a lesson which Buffalo would seem to have learned with marked advantage and profit to itself.

Rochester, the comely arboreseent city of numerieers, and Syracuse, the town whose foundations are salt—through both of which places I passed on my way hither—do not, so far as I could gather from the data at my command, appear to have seriously suffered from the business depression which has disastrously affected so many other thrifty cities. Oswego, too, was so fortunate as to escape with but a slight nipping from the same frost; a result most likely attributable to the fact that its commercial and industrial activities and interests are principally confined to breadstuffs, for which there is such a pressing current demand from Europe. There is, however, a very extensive starch factory—claimed by some to be the largest in the world—which has a capital of upwards of half a million, and employs, in the season, some five hundred hands. There are also other manufactories in successful operation; but still the staple interest of the place is the great agricultural staple, wheat.

Oswego is a city of magnificent possibilities. Situated at the foot of lake navigation, dowered with enormous water power, and possessing one of the finest harbors (which is being greatly enlarged) on the Lake Ontario coast-bend, too, with the great trunk railroad lines of the State, and having, in addition, communication with the Erie canal on the one hand, and by the Welland canal with all the lake-shore ports on the other, its commercial facilities would be extraordinary were it not for the one great drawback that it is hermetically sealed by the ice for a period of four or five months every year. It is a prosperous and flourishing city, nevertheless, and in summer must form a delightful piece of residence, with its front streets, its spacious lawns, and the noble glory of the trees in which it lies capaciously embowered.

Gerrit Smith, the great-hearted if somewhat eccentric philanthropist, owns a large amount of property here, and some years ago he presented the city with a substantial library building, whose liberal shelves he also filled at his own expense.

There are two afternoon daily papers published here, respectively Republican and Democratic. So far as local matters and interests are concerned, they appear to be conducted with fully average discrimination and vitality. In other respects they do not profess to claim the possession of any special cosmic compass or gnomon.

I must not neglect to mention the famous "Deep Rock" mineral spring, the water of which was first secured in the autumn of 1870, by means of unremitting labor and a very large expenditure of money. The spring was first opened to the public, and the water placed in the market, in the beginning of 1871. In order to secure it a bank of hard pan thirty feet in height had to be removed, and a bed of solid rock penetrated to the depth of more than a hundred feet. It is said by physicians to possess unusually valuable medicinal properties. A first class hotel, capable of accommodating five hundred guests, is now being erected on the site of the spring, and will be opened early next summer.

Of course I shall not tell you of the many dainty courtesies of which I am the recipient, nor of my splendid sleigh-rides, nor yet of my snow-ballies with the three graces, nor of the rare and welcoming hospitality which glows around the comfortable fireside of these frigid zones. You wouldn't do it yourself, if you were in my place. I know. And then—if there are songs without words—why, haply, may there not also be descriptions without any descriptage? In connection in the kingdom of existence, it is said. Guess, then, how it comes about that the lilacs are all in radiant bloom here, only a week's remove from Christmas. Is it for the reason that, as Coleridge sings

"—In our life alone does Nature live?"

MUNCH.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

The Lehigh Valley Spike Works, at Allentown, are now running on full time, with a large force of hands.

Roach's shipyard at Chester is crowded with work, giving employment to 1,600 hands.

The paper mill of Messrs. McCartney & Sutton, in West Indiana, Pa., has discontinued operations for the present but will resume on the 1st of March.

The Holland (Michigan) Iron Company is to be revived and again put in operation.

The Chicago *Times* boasts of the growth of that city in manufacturing industry, the capital in which increased, according to its statement, 707 per cent. from 1860 to 1870, against 212 per cent. in New York, and 238 per cent. in Philadelphia. The manufacturing products of the Garden City are estimated at about $120,000,000; and, if this account may be credited, they are the best in the United States.

The largest collection of railway workshops in the world is at Crewe, in England, on the line of the London and Northwestern Railway. Here are employed six thousand hands at building or repairing the two thousand locomotives used upon this, the longest of the English roads, of which engines it is calculated that at least two are always in the shops for repairs.

The new stack of the Lehigh Valley Iron Company, at Coplay, will be put in blast soon after the first of January. This company has paid its hands in cash through the panic, and is now ready to make all the money it can during the good times which are approaching.

There is more carpeting made in the Nineteenth ward of Philadelphia, than in all the rest of the rest of the United States and Great Britain.

The Huntingdon *Journal* says: "We learn from our friend William Hall, of Greenwood furnaces, that both furnaces are in blast, but expect to blow out for repairs about the first proximo. They have been turning out about sixty tons of charcoal metal per week. It is bought readily and manufactured into car wheels.

According to the Bristol, Bucks county *Observer*, the arrangements for the establishment of a great iron manufactory in that place are nearly perfected. The company, chartered in New York, is to have a capital of $1,000,000. With the President's brother, Orville L. Grant, at its head.

The mines in Northumberland county are all working on full time excepting at Excelsior, where all are idle, and at a place called Bell's Tunnel, near Mt. Carmel, where a strike has been in progress ever since October 3, owing to a deduction made by the operators for slate and dirt, to which the men, considering it far in excess of what was just and right, refused to submit. The men express themselves determined to remain out, and the operator is equally disinclined to yield. A rumor is now extant to the effect that at the collieries controlled by the Reading Company the two-third time run will shortly be enforced.

Protestant International Sympathy.

"Earl Russel," says the *Rock*, "has consented to preside at a great Protestant meeting, with the object of expressing to the German Emperor and the German people the sympathy that Englishmen feel for them in the arduous struggle with Ultramontanism on which they are now engaged. The meeting will be held in St. James' Hall, on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 27th of January, when the noble Earl will be well supported by members of either House of Parliament, as well as representatives of different religious denominations. One 'Old Catholic' will be among the speakers, and it is hoped the Archbishop of York will be willing to move a resolution. We may add that it is proposed that each of the great towns should send at least two representatives to the meeting, and in this way we hope that its character may be made truly national."

The talk of increased taxation, and especially of an increased tax upon whisky, has set the speculators in motion. Raise the tax ten cents on whisky, and speculation will be rampant at once.

PERSONAL.

An admirable equestrian painting of the President, life size, has just been completed in New Orleans, by a noted artist named Persson. It has a frame of solid cypress, and is designed as a Christmas present to General Grant.

Miss Ella M. Hulett, for some time an Attorney of the Illinois State courts, was, the other day, at Chicago, admitted to practice in the United States and District Courts, being, we think, the first instance of the kind.

It is a curious fact to reflect on that to-day the most popular Christmas story writer in England is a Jew. That Mr. Farjeon has contrived by sheer force of talent to acquire his present proud position, and that his stories sink deeply into the popular heart from their winning grace, kindly sentiment and freedom from cant—his indicates how prejudice is dissipated by knowledge. The prejudice, perhaps, has been on both sides.

Agassiz was twice married. He has three children, Alexander Agassiz, Ida (Mrs. Higginson), and Pauline (Mrs. Shaw). He died on the seventy-fourth anniversary of the death of Washington, and almost at the same hour of the day.

Premier Gladstone and Herbert Spencer have been tilting. Herbert says that Gladstone has made himself the "champion (or exponent) of anti-scientific views," referring most particularly to the theory of evolution. The latter replies that he has "no repugnance to any conclusions whatever legitimately arising upon well ascertained facts or well tested reasonings," but only complains that the functions of the Almighty are denied upon grounds which appear to him utterly and manifestly insufficient to warrant such denial.

The position of Professor of the *classe de perfectionnement* in the violin section of the Brussels Conservatory of Music has just been tendered to M. Wieniawski, who is at present in this country. The office is the highest of its order in Europe, for there is no doubt that the Brussels Conservatory has quite outstripped its French rival, and that the traditions of the violinist's art, especially, have been more faithfully preserved and more skillfully transmitted to its pupils than by any other institution of the kind. It is not surprising, therefore, that M. Wieniawski should have decided upon accepting it. He will sail for Europe in the spring.

The *Intendencia* of Valparaiso invites all Chileans and foreigners residing in the Republic to get up a subscription for the purpose of erecting a statue of bronze to William Wheelwright, an American, the first projector of navigation by steam in the Pacific.

Washington has a newsboy thirteen years old, who bought his mother a sewing machine, for which he gave $65, and has paid her $3 a week board out of money he has made by selling the *Star*.

Laura D. Fair has married a San Francisco lawyer. That's fair.

The rather unexpected resurrection of Abd el-Kader greatly encourages those Democrats who have been under the impression that Andrew Jackson was hopelessly dead and buried.

"A. H. Stephens for President" is among the items of the day.

OHIO NEWS.

Another German paper is to be started in Canton.

Gillis's car shops and rolling mill at Columbus, have suspended operations.

The old jail in Canton is to be converted into an insane asylum.

The "Authorized Dog Slayers" of Cleveland, Ohio, report the demise of 1,108 for the "past season."

The State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, of Ohio, will meet in Alliance on the 22d day of January, 1874.

A large woolen factory is in process of erection at Bakersville, about seven miles north of New Comerstown. It will be completed some time next spring.

Three Toledo lads, the eldest only fourteen, stole two hundred dollars from the father of one of them last week, went to Cleveland and had a fine frolic. They are now in jail awaiting punishment.

Mrs. Ann Fowler, of Brownsville, died very suddenly last Saturday. Her death was caused by heart disease. Mrs. Fowler had been a widow for a number of years.

Mr. Walter Stanley, who constructed the Hoosac Tunnel, has the contract for finishing the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad, Wheeling and Toledo, by September 1.

The Vinton *Journal* says that a company, made up of citizens of Dayton, Xenia and Washington, have purchased land in Vinton county, and will immediately commence the erection of two furnaces. Coal and iron are said to be abundant on the land owned by the company.

There is a shocking case of miscegenation in the household of Governor elect Hon. William Allen. It is stated thusly:

"CHILLICOTHE, December 20.—Last Wednesday a German girl named Hanks, who has been employed as a nurse for the grandchildren of Governor elect Allen, packed up her clothing and left for Zanesville. This morning a colored boy named Hogan who has been employed at the Governor's, also left, and the girl is said to be made one. The father of the girl swears he will kill Hogan if he catches him, and also says the girl shall never enter his house."

THE debate on the salary repeal, though on the whole a melancholy piece of business, is bringing out occasionally an episode which provokes a smile. Ben Butler's scriptural quotations were good in their way, but by no means as felicitous as the innocent frankness of a new Democratic member from Maryland named O'Brien. O'Brien, judging from his name, must be a Frenchman or an Italian, and therefore naturally innocent and unsuspecting as regards politics. Mr. O'Brien felt called upon to make a speech on the salary question, and not having anything else to say, concluded to describe his feelings on learning that the salary law of March, 1873, had passed Congress. "It was," says Mr. O'Brien, "upon the night of the 3d of March, or rather early on the morning of the 4th, that the startling news was brought to me. While it had been pending, we had been taught at home to regard it as another scheme of the Republican party to plunder the country, and that the Democratic party had no lot or part in it. But when I found that it was passed by Democratic votes, I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I was, so to speak, staggered as it were, and I came to the conclusion that perhaps it was not so reprehensible as I had been led to believe."

This is an admirable Democratic argument. Whatever the Democracy had done became, in the eyes of this faithful brother from Maryland, sanctified. It would, of course, be absurd to suppose that the fact that the increase applied to Mr. O'Brien's own salary had any influence in calming his terrors about the enactment.—*Cleveland Leader*.

Two years ago, Treasurer Gage requested the Chicago city council to designate depository banks in which the public money should be kept. The council refused to do so Mr. Gage must use his own discretion. He did.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.

ASSETS JANUARY 1, 1873.... $778,251 56.

Chartered in 1802.

Open daily from 9 to 4 o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from May 1st to November 1st, 7 to 9 o'clock, and from November 1st to May 1st, 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of 6 Per Cent., compounded for the 1st and 15th of each month, and if not withdrawn compounds semi-annually on January and July. Books of By-Laws, &c., furnished at the office.

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JOHN SCOTT, JAS. PARK, Jr., Vice Presidents.

D. F. MCKINLEY, Secretary and Treasurer.

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FALL STYLES

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Furs, Furs, Furs,

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Beautiful Shawls and Cloaks

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A great variety of Choice Goods, suitable for HOLIDAY PRESENTS, are now offered at PANIC PRICES, at the GREAT CASH SALE, at

M'KEE'S,

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Have just received and are now offering the most complete

Stock of Medium and Fine

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On Exhibition in this Market.

Bonnet, Ponson, Tapasier and Bellon's

BLACK SILK.

CHENEY BROTHERS' CELEBRATED

AMERICAN SILK,

In Black and Cloth Shades.

All the New Shades in PLAIN SILKS for Suits and Evening Wear.

Black Alpacas, Mohair Lustres, Brilliantteens, Irish and French Poplins, Repps, French Merinos, Cashmeres, Biarretz, Diagonal Drap D' Franc, Drap D' Ete, Black Silk Warp Cashmeres, And Henrietta Cloths.

ALL THE DESIRABLE FABRICS IN

Black Material

FOR DEEP MOURNING.

PONSON'S BLACK SILK MANTILLA

Velvet, Velveteen and Plushes

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Fine Laces, Gimps and Trimmings.

New Styles Sacques, Dolmas and Redingotes.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Chintzes, Blankets and Flannels

CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, REPELLANTS, &C.

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Federal Street Allegheny.

WHOLESALE HOUSE

Joseph Horne & Co.

MARKET STREET,

Invite attention to the

Large Additions to Stock,

made during the past week, which will be found

UNSURPASSED

IN VARIETY,

And all at the extreme

FINANCE AND TRADE

TUESDAY EVENING, December 23, 1873.

The local money market continues as last reported and the healthful signs then indicated still characterize its movements. The demands for money being light, are promptly met by the banks.

Mortgage loans are in demand and we hear of transactions at 9 to 10 per cent. per annum. The fact that so many railroad and municipal bonds are defaulting on their interest, makes lenders cautious about buying such securities and select instead home investments, which, though they may not pay as much interest, are safer and better.

—The following is a copy of the bill of Hon. C. L. Merriam, the principal features of which are: removing the *fixed limit* of the bank circulation; enforcing redemption; abolishing the present law of *reserves;* organizing banks without circulation, and prohibiting interest upon deposits:

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, That all laws and parts of laws limiting the amount of national bank circulation to the same are hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. That all national banks shall keep deposits of United States notes in the Treasury of the United States, equal to five per centum of their respective circulation, for the redemption of such circulation.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Treasury shall redeem in the city of New York, in United States notes, all national bank notes, when presented for redemption, in sums of $1,000, or its multiple.

SEC. 4. That the national bank notes so redeemed shall be charged to the five per centum deposit account of the respective banks whose circulation is so redeemed, and that said banks shall be notified the fact of each month, or oftener, at the discretion of the United States Treasurer, of the amount of such redemption, when each bank shall forthwith deposit with the United States Treasurer United States notes equal in amount to the circulation so redeemed.

SEC. 5. That when said banks shall have reimbursed the Treasury for such redemption, the circulation so redeemed, or new notes of the same kind, in place of those redeemed, may be instituted or partly worn, shall be forwarded to the respective banks.

SEC. 6. That all laws and parts of laws requiring other bank reserves are hereby repealed.

SEC. 7. That banks may be organized under the National Banking act without circulation upon a deposit of $10,000 in United States bonds with the Treasurer of the United States, and that banks already organized without circulation are hereby authorized to withdraw bonds held in the Treasury in excess of $10,000.

SEC. 8. That any national bank desiring to withdraw its circulation may, upon deposit of United States notes, in sums of not less than $10,000, with the United States Treasurer, withdraw a proportionate amount of bonds pledged for such circulation; and that the Treasurer shall upon redemption of the circulation of such banks cancel and destroy it equal to the amount issued upon bonds withdrawn.

SEC. 9. That hereafter no national bank shall, directly or indirectly, pay, or promise to be paid, interest upon deposits, or keep its current account, elsewhere than in national banks.

Of the last clause we have to say, if money readily commands interest everywhere, why should banks and bankers be prohibited either from paying interest on deposits received by them or from receiving interest on loans made by them? If they pay too high a rate of interest, time and experience will correct the error, and if depositors will select weak institutions, instead of strong ones, they do so at their own risk and with their eyes open. On this subject Senator Sherman says:

"The people who lose by bank failures are either those who have dangerously extended their business upon the moneys of others, or those who have voluntarily lent their moneys to such persons. If you will examine all the failures, you will find that they are included within these classes. This is a matter beyond legislative relief. All that the law can do is to secure the currency. It cannot say who shall and who shall not receive deposits, or who shall make them, or to whom they shall re lent.

"All Congress can do is to require ample security for all currency issued; to maintain it as par with gold; to guard against artificial scarcity in times of panic, and then to leave all persons free to buy, sell, barter, exchange, bank, borrow, lend or deposit as they will at their own risk."

—We have received the official programme of the adjourned meeting of the National Board of Trade, to be held at Baltimore on January 13, 1874, and following days. The first subject to be discussed is reform of the currency, the resolutions having been submitted by the Boston Board of Trade. They are to the effect that the National Board of Trade recommend to Congress to provide by law for the restoration of the specie standard to the circulating currency of the United States and for regulating the issue and use of such currency on a basis specified in the resolutions. A large number of amendments to the original resolution as well as new ones have been submitted upon it. The second subject is the restoration of specie payments, represented by resolutions offered by the Baltimore Board of Trade, to the effect that the true interests of the country demand a return to specie payment at the earliest practicable moment, and that no further inflation of an irredeemable paper currency will postpone the period when a return to specie payment may be successfully and healthfully undertaken. The third subject is a policy for the general government in regard to national banking, proffered by the Board of Trade of Cincinnati. Recommendations are also presented by the Philadelphia Board of Trade, with a view to the passage of amendments which will lead to an equalization of the benefits of the banking system, and to the correction of such defects in its workings as experience may have suggested. The Board of Trade of Chicago and the Executive Committee will present papers on transportation. The Chamber of Commerce of Milwaukee will present resolutions on railroad transportation of grain in bulk. Other subjects are: Bureau of Internal Improvements, construction of revenue laws, capitation tax on immigrants, lake coasting trade, State interference in municipal affairs, regulation of fees, uniformity of standard gauge laws, Mississippi river levees, reorganization of the Indian Territory, postal routes, postal money orders, the Executive will present names, the Darien ship canal, and the amendment of the Constitution.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 23, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	110¾	110¾	110	110¾	110¾	110¾
Canton	73½	74	73	73⅝	73⅝	73⅝
Quicksilver	36½	36¾	36½	36¾	36¾	36¾
Pacific Mail	36½	36¾	36½	37	37⅛	36¾
Adams Express	66	66	66	66	66	66
Wells-Fargo Express	66	66	66	66	66	66
American Express	66	66	66	67⅛	66	66
United States Express	66	66	66	66	66	66
New York Central	95½	96	96⅛	96	96	96
Erie	44	44⅛	44	44	44	44
Michigan Central	94¾	95	95	95⅛	94¾	94¾
Michigan Southern	74	74	74	74	74	74
Lake Shore	74½	74¾	74½	74¾	74¾	74¾
Illinois Central	130	130	130	130	130	130
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	96	96	96	96	96	96
Chicago & Rock Island	107	107	107	107	107	107
Pittsburgh & Fort Wayne	130	130	130	130	130	130
Chicago & Northwestern	84¾	84¾	84½	84¾	84¾	84¾
Do preferred	89	89	89	89	89	89
Rock Island	97½	97	97	97	97	97
St. Paul	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾
Do preferred	62¾	62¾	62¾	62¾	62¾	62¾
Wabash	48¾	49	49	49	48¾	48¾
Do preferred	68	68	68	68	68	68
Fort Wayne	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
Ohio and Mississippi	29½	29	29	29	29	29
Union Pacific	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½
Chicago and Alton	101	101	101	101	101	101
Boston, Hartf'd and Erie	7	7	7	7	7	7
Panama	116	116	116	117	117	117

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Even'g
1881, coupons	119¾	118¾	119
5-20s, 1865	113	113	113
5-20s, 1865, c	114¾	114	114⅜
5-20s, 1865, n	114¾	114¾	114⅜
5-20s, 1867	116¼	116¼	116¼
5-20s, 1867, c	117⅜	117⅜	117¼
5-20s, 1868	117¾	117¾	117¾
10-40s, coupons	110¼	110	110⅜
10-40s, coupons	111	111⅛	111⅛
Currency 6s	119¾	119¾	119¾
New 6s	110¾	110¾	110⅜
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees	80		80½
Tennessees, new	80½		80½
South Carolinas, July	11		9½
South Carolinas, April			20
Missouri 6s	92¾		

—Robinson & Co., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	46¾
Penna. Scrip	92¾
Reading	93¾
United Co'sN. J.	115
Oil Creek	19½
Lehigh Valley	57¾
N. Y. & E. 7-30s	89½
Central Transportation	41¾
P., C. and St. Louis 7s	61

Ex-Dividend.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 22, 1873.

The following are the entire receipts of the leading articles for this market, by river and rail, for the twenty-four hours ending to-day:

Flour, bbls	2,700	Wheat, sacks	918
Apples, bbls	275	Corn, sacks	3631
Butter, pkgs	28	Barley, sacks	102
Beans, bbls	50	Oats, sacks	387

The general market to-day presented no new feature worthy of note. The business appeared to be confined wholly to supplying the immediate wants of be local trade. There was, therefore, an entire absence of all speculative feeling, the near approach of the holidays having had a quieting effect upon the different branches. It is thought by some that after the first of January all departments of the city market will enjoy a brisk season of activity.

The following will indicate the state of the market in detail, together with the latest quotations, based upon actual sales:

APPLES—The arrivals are about the same as yesterday, and owing to the favorable weather, the demand continues brisk. Sales are made at $1 50@2 50 per bbl for common and medium, and $3 00@5 00 per bbl for prime and choice.

APPLE BUTTER—The demand continues fair for the season, and prices are steady. Sales at 6@8c per gallon.

ASHES—The market continues quiet, with but little change. The nominal sales are: Soda Ash, common, 3½@4c; Refined, 5c; Potash, 9c; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 5c; Black Lead, 5c.

BEANS—The market is firm, with a fair demand. The card prices are as follows: X X $ qbu; XX, $2 qbu; Extra Family, $2 qbu; Family, $1 qbu; Strictly Prime, $1 qbu; Prime, 90c qbu; Inferior to good, 75@85c qbu.

BAGGING—Market quiet and unchanged. Sales of 25 gals, $2 10@2 25; 6@8, 41 gals, $12 25@14 gals, 8@9, $2 75@3 00; 4, in cases, bottles, $2 75; Wm. Youngren, Jr., Bath, sells the 6 oz. bottles at $ qr doz; Robt. Youngren of sparkling ale at $ qr doz; Guinness' stout, in bottles, $ qr doz; A. Burke, $ qr doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 qr doz; Cassells, Haxarrd's Cox ginger ale $1 75 qr doz.

BRAN—In demand and unchanged. The market is dull. Sales at $12@12 25 for fair to choice.

BONAS—Nominal at $25@30 per ton.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—Market steady; sales per doz ¼ pounds, $1 80@1 ¾ per doz $2 00; 1 to 5 lb cans, $27 00 per dozen.

BROOM CORN—Market quiet with sales reds and red tipped 5½@6½; fair to good green 5½@6¾. Hurl 9½@10c per lb.

BUTTER—The receipts continue limited, but the supply is regarded as ample for the demand, which is more for the choice article. Price on the latter is firm, while common is dull. Sales at 30@32c per lb for prime to choice, and 10 to 25c per lb for common.

BACON and PROVISIONS—The market indicates no new feature in feeling or price, but trade continues steady. Last in bbl. Below are the current rates: extra sugar cured hams 13½c; canvassed, extra sugar cured, 9½c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 11½c; dried beef, extra sugar cured, 10½c; bacon shoulders, 8½c; clear sides 9c; mess pork $17 00 per bbl; lard, prime leaf in tierces, 9½c per lb; prime leaf in half bbls, 10c; prime leaf in packets, 10c; refined for summer use in tierces, 9½c; do in half bbls, 10c; do in packets, 10½c; refined in 5 to 25 lb packages, 11c; do in 5 to 8 caddies, 11½c; do in 3 to 5 gals, 13c; in 6 to 8 gals, 12½c; hams, sugar cured, 12½c.

CANNED OIL—Market unchanged and prices firm. Sales at 11@11½ qr gallon at works and the usual advance on small lots.

CRANBERRIES—The current rates are $10 to $13 per bbl; $3 50 to $4 per box.

CONFECTIONERY—Dealers report sales at $7 50 per case of four dozen packages.

CORN MEAL—The supply continues to meet the demands of the market, with sales at $30 ¾ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 ¾ bush from store.

CRACKERS—Trade continues satisfactory. Prices are as follows: Pittsburgh grades, range unchanged, for the following graded brands: crackers unchanged. We quote: Lemon biscuit 11½c; ginger snaps 12@c; sugar oysters 11c; soda crackers 12; sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 9½c; pilot bread 6½c; 7½ @ 8c.

CHEESE—We have nothing new to report in regard to this article. Prices were as follows: Hibbard's Pittsburgh $2 00@3 00; Louisville $2 25@2 50; Reedsville $4 00@4 50; white line $1 00; Calcined Boracide $4 00@4 50; lime plaster $2 00@3 00.

CHEESE—Good Ohio Dairy 10½@12c; prime Ohio Flat, September make, 14½@15c; to the trade, Factory, September make, 13½@14c; Young America and 166@166c to a jobbing way. Young America and 166@166c; prime to choice Ohio Sweitzer 16 @16c.

DRESSED HOGS—Sales at 5¾@6¾c ¾ lb.

DRIED FRUIT—Sales bright new crop apples at 6½@6¾c; fair to prime 6@6½c; Peaches 10@12c for prime halves.

EGGS—The supply continues up to the average and the market is quite active, but prices are no higher. Sales strictly fresh at 30c per doz, and packed at 18@20c.

FISH—The market was less active to day than during the past week. Although the arrivals are large, they are not beyond the wan's of the trade. It is plain that after the holidays the market will be an active one. Below are the store rates:

State amber wheat	$8 25@8 50
State red wheat	7 75@8 00
Fancy St. Louis	9 25@9 50
Fancy Kentucky white wheat	8 50
Good Ohio red wheat	8 00
Wisconsin Spring wheats	7 75
Minnesota Spring wheats	7 75
Rye flour	5 25

FISH—Prices remain unchanged. We quote: No. 1 extra mess mackerel $25; No. 1 mess do, $23; extra No 1 shore mackrel, $28; No. 1 shore mackrel, $23; extra No. 2 shore mackrel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackrel, $14 large No. 3 mackrel, $12 50; No. 3 mackrel, $10; split Labrador herring, $5 to $7 ¾ white fish, $7 25@8 00 lake trout, $7 00@7 50; large Georges codfish $6@7 50 ¾ 100; medium Georges codfish, $5 50 ¾ 100; red herring, scale 50c ¾ box; No. 1 $3c ¾ box.

FEATHERS—There is little or nothing doing and can be quoted at 38@39c ¾lb; No. 2 do, 30@32c as to quality and quantity.

GROCERIES—The market continues moderately active, with a fair local trade. Coffee is very strong at the late advance. Sugars and molasses are also firm. Below are the current rates:

Coffee—Green Rio coffee, choice, 20c; strictly prime 22c; prime 23½c; g'd ord 25c; fair 26½c; green Java 32@33c ¾ lb; roasted 4to in papers, 34c; in bulk 33½c; Java in papers, 40c.

Teas—Young Hyson 50@$1 10 ¾ lb; Gunpowder 90c@$1 25; Imperial 50c@$1 00 ¾ lb; Japan 55c@$1 00; Oolong 75c@$2 ¾ lb; fancy $1 00 ¾ lb; Souchong 25@35c ¾ lb.

Sugars—Standard Ex C 10½c; Standard B 10¾c; standard A 10¾c; standard nards 11½c.

Molasses—Choice New Orleans 75c; prime 68@70c.

Syrups—Extra White Drips 70c; Sugar Drips, 60c; Amber 60@65c; lower grades 55@60c, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Caroline 8½c; Patna 8c; Rangoon 7½c.

GAME—The cold weather has a good effect upon the demand, and the market is quite active, although prices are without change. Below are the selling rates:

Quail—$2 00 per dozen.

Rabbits—$4 00 per dozen.

Squirrels—$1 00 per dozen.

Wild Turkeys—$2 00@2 50 each.

GRAIN—The receipts of grain are falling off greatly, but the supply to market is in excess of demand, which has ruled off on account of the near approach of the holidays. Prices although unchanged are firm. Below are the selling rates:

Wheat—Red Winter at $1 50@1 55; Amber $1 65; and White at $1 70.

Corn—Are in more liberal supply; we quote; Mixed at 47c; White at 50c, as per quality.

Oats—Sales of old shelled at 40@40c, an advance; new ear sold at 60c; old would bring 65@70c; the market is bare.

Rye—Nominal at 80@85c.

Bran—In the absence of sales, we omit figures.

HOMINY—The market has undergone no change; we are reported sales at $4 50@5 00 per bbl.

HAY—The market is well stocked with loose in country wagons, which is selling at from $19 to $23 per ton. Straw is in demand at $15 per ton.

ONIONS—Are in good supply with sales in a regular way $4 00 to $5 00 per bbl.

PICKLES—Medium, bbls, $10; medium half bbls, $6 50; half bbls Boston mixed, $8 00; pints, plain or mixed, per dozen, $1 50; quarts, plain or mixed, $2 50; half gallons, plain, $ 75; gallons, plain, $5 50; Hexagon ale bone, tinged, $4 50; English chow chow, pints, $4 50; English chow chow, quarts, $6 00; English mixed pickles, pints, $4 00; English mixed pickles, quarts, $6 00; English cauliflower, pints, $3 00; English cauliflower, quarts, $6 00; English pimalo, pints, $3 00; English pimalo, quarts, $6 00; English walnuts, pints, $4 00; English white onions, pints, $4 00; English white onions, quarts, $7 50; English gherkins, pints, $3 75; English gherkins, quarts, $6 50; English Mofussili, pickles, pints, $4 50.

POTATOES—The receipts are meager, but the market is well stocked, and prices continue nearly the same. Sales in a small way at $1 75@2 ¾ bushel for the prime article and mixed at 90@95 ¾ bush.

POTATOES—The market is becoming more active, but prices are not higher. Sales chickens, dressed, at 10@12c, and turkeys at 15@18c ¾ lb.

SEEDS—There is nothing doing in timothy, but there is some inquiry for clover. Flax seed is now quoted at $1 80@1 90 ¾ bushel.

WHISKEY—Highwines are higher, with sales at $1 00@1 01 per gallon.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 22, 1873.

REMARKS—The market is moving along steadily, presenting nothing very new or important. Rumors that has ruled at the leading points in the oil regions has been maintained and producers appear well pleased with the situation. Below will be found all the information that was obtainable.

CRUDE.

The asking rates in the market were 27¾@3c per gallon. We have heard of no sales here. The following sales were reported at

PARKER'S:

1,000 bbls United	$ 92¾
1,000 bbls Union	1 02½

For prices at other points consult dispatches.

REFINED.

We have no change to note in regard to this article as relates to prices or demand. At the works for free on board cars 18¾c was demanded.

Philadelphia—Market reported quiet at 13¼; January 13¾c; February 13¾@13¾c; March 14¼@14⅜; April 14¾@14¾c.

New York—Market dull at 13@13¼c.

OIL BARRELS.

Sales: City $1 85@1 90; country $1 75@1 80.

PETROLEUM (By Western Union Telegraph Line.)

TITUSVILLE, December 23 — The "Herald" says: The petroleum market was steady at previous quotations. Sales of 1,000 bbls Parker, $ qr bbl; 2,000 bbls, upper road, spot, $1 12½; for Union and 92½ for United pipe. Sales:

1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....$1 12¾
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....1 12½
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....1 15
1,000 bbls, Allegheny, spot.....1 10
2,000 bbls, Parkers, United pipe.....92¾
2,000 bbls, Parkers, Union pipe.....1 02½

NEW YORK, December 23.—Petroleum dull; crude dull but steady; crude in bulk, at 55c; refined at 13¼@13¾c; cases at 18¾@19c; naphta 8@9c. Philadelphia and Boston quiet and steady; refined 13¾c.

PETROLEUM CENTRE, December 23.—Market very quiet and nominal.

TIDIOUTE, December 23.—Market unchanged at per bbl. 90c asked.

TITUSVILLE, December 23.—Market quiet and nothing doing; spot at 1¼@1 15.

OIL CITY, December 23.—Market quiet.

PHILADELPHIA, December 23.—Market quiet; S. W. 13¾c; crude 4¾c; cases 18¾c; sales none; futures, January 13¾c; February 13¾@13¾c; March 13¾@14c; April 14¼@14¾c.

(By Pacific and Atlantic Line.)

PARKER'S, December 22.—Market quiet to-day at 85c to $1 00.

OIL CITY, December 23.—Market weak and very quiet and it is doing owing to b g 'spouters' below; quote at $1 00 to $1 05.

TITUSVILLE, December 23.—Market quiet and not much doing at $1 10@1 15.

Crude Oil Received by A. V. R. R.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
J. & J.	Penn O W	545
Owner	Paine, Abbott & Papp	75
Fisher Bros.	Petrolia O W	5
Abbott	Model O W	910
B S Duncan	Liberty O W	366
Joe Rothwell	Lillie O W	366
Fisher Bros.	Hutchinson O W	161
Loss hart & Frew	Brilliant O W	1,507
B S Duncan	Allentown O W	224
Fisher Bros.	American O W	13
Fisher Bros.	Conestoga O W	1,498
Fisher Bros.	Citizens O W	5,659
W Johnston	Citizens O W	900
Fisher Bros.	Owners	3,700

Crude Oil Received by Rail and River.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
Penn O W	Lille O W	457
Paine, Abbott & Papp	Hutchinson O W	161
Petrolite O W	Brilliant O W	1,537
Model O W	American O W	1,497
Liberty O W	Owners	5,100
Citizens O W		5,950
Total		15,914

Refined Oil Shipped East by A. V. R. R. W. P. R. R, and P. R. R.

WEST PENN JUNCTION, December 23, 1873.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
Lockhart & Frew	Warden, F & Co, Phila	250
Standard Oil Co	Wanda, P & Co, Phila	1,170
Empire O W	Emil Schanik & Co, N Y	250
Total		1,778

IRON, NAIL AND STEEL MARKET.

LOUISVILLE.

December 22.—There are satisfactory evidences that prices have at last touched hard bottom, and dealers have no longer any serious apprehension of the future. In pig metals prices are steady, and the demand is improving, though there is not yet life enough in the trade to give dealers any advantage over buyers. There is also an improved inquiry for manufactures, with no material change to note in values.

Pig Iron—We quote as follows:

Hanging Rock foundry	$16@22
Extra No. 1	20@21
No. 1 C C pig iron	20@21
No. 1 foundry	21@23
No. 3 or mill	32@33
No. 1 Tennessee foundry	28@29
No. 2 foundry	23@24
No. 3 or mill	31@33
No. 1 stonecoal foundry Missouri Red S	34@41
No. 2 stonecoal foundry Missouri Red S	38@39
No. 3 or Mill foundry, Missouri Red S	30@34
C C Charcoal Iron—	
Ohio Heeks	$65@
No. 1 Red River, cold blast	60@61
No. 2 Red R'ver and Cottage	60@61
Nos. 2 and 4 Red River and Cottage	60@61
Nos. 3 and 6 of same brand	60@61
C C Tennessee car wheel	56@58
No. 1 Dover cold blast	56@58
No. 2 Dover cold blast	56@58
Dunsard Iron	56@58

Bar and Merchant Iron—We quote horse shoes at $6 75@7 25 and mule shoes at $7 75@8 25 per keg, standard brands.

NAILS AND SPIKES—We quote the card rate as follows: Bar, S. C., $3 70@3 90; C. C., $4 70@4 90; nailed, 50@60c, 5 qualities.

NAILS—We quote: 10d nails fence and brads, at $4 10 in large lots and $4 50 on small sales—all other sizes in proportion.

PLOW WINGS AND SLABS.—We quote as follows: Steel plow-slabs are held at 9c; steel plow-wings at 9½c.

STEEL—We quote as follows: Cast, 2c; spring, 3½@4c; Swedes, American, 18c; German 15@15½c.—Courier-Journal.

Louisville Leaf Tobacco Market.

December 22.—The sales by warehouses during the week just closed, and the expired portions of the current month and tobacco year were (in hogsheads) as follows:

Warehouses.	Week.	Month.	Year.
Pickett	166	467	1,747
Louisville	91	294	966
Exchange	56	145	341
Main street	70	218	365
Farmers'	171	323	493
Ky. Association	136	273	381
Planters'	174	313	483
Boone	91	166	210
Totals	955	2,079	3,882
Last year	1,052	2,052	1,778

The past week has maintained extraordinary dimensions for the season, as planters have rarely enjoyed at this period of the year so protracted a spell of soft weather for handling and prizing. Receipts and sales average at least one hundred per cent. in excess of last year.

A large proportion of the offerings, however, is in very bad condition, and sells low.

Very little old crop tobaccos are offering, and prices are fairly sustained.

Buyers are in large attendance, the market is no longer under the restraint of monetary embarrassment and values are again under the control of the legitimate influences of demand and supply.

A low range of prices is prevailing for the average grades of the new crop, but during the last half of the week the tone was firmer.

We quote new leaf and lugs as follows:

Lugs.	Trash, and color.	Colory.
Common to fair	$2 00@3 00	$4 00@ 6 00
Good leaf	5 00@7 00	6 00@8 00
Fine leaf	6 00@8 00	8 00@9 50
Manufacturing		3 00@12 00
Common to medium leaf		5 00@ 7 00
Fair to good leaf		7 00@ 9 00
Fine leaf		9 00@11 00
Manufacturing and cutting		11 00@14 00

—*Courier-Journal.*

Nashville Market.

NASHVILLE, December 23.—Cotton dull and declined at 19½@19¾c.

Flour quiet at $6 50@6 60 for No. 2; $6 75@7 50 for No. 1; $8 00@8 50 for family.

Corn dull and declined at 45@50c. Oats firm at 40@45c. Rye and barley unchanged. Pork steady at $16 75@16 50. Lard quiet; sales in kegs at 9½@9¾c; tierces 9½@9¾c; clear rib 7½@7¾c; clear 7½@7¾c. Bacon shoulders 6½@6¾c. Whisky steady at 91c.

Philadelphia Market.

PHILADELPHIA, December 22.—Flour firm; superfine $5@5 50; State, Ohio and Indiana, $7 25@8 25; extra do $8 50@9 50. Flour quiet at $9 50@10 50. Rye flour steady at $5 50@5 75. Corn meal steady at $3 75@4 00. Corn firmer; old yellow 58@59c; new 57@58c. Oats steady; white 53@58c. Crude petroleum 8¾@9c; refined 13¾c. Whisky $1 02.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, TUESDAY, December 23, 1873.

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle this week have been fair so far, both of through and way stock. The quality of the arrivals is principally the medium and inferior grades. The attendance of buyers is not so good as last week, many of them, no doubt, re aining at home to spend the holidays. The advices from other points are not favorable to trade, and buyers have bought but few cattle, holding off for lower prices. Following are the current rates:

PRICES.

Extra 1,400 to 1,500 lbs steers	$6 00 to 6 25
Extra 1,300 lbs	5 50 to 5 75
Prime 1,200 lbs	5 00 to 5 25
Fair 1,100 lbs	4 50 to 4 75
Fair 1,000 lbs	4 00 to 4 25
Common	3 50 to 3 75
Bulls	2 50 to 3 50

Hogs.

The run of hogs to this time fair. The quality of the offerings good, some as fine hogs being on sale as has been here for one year. Market inclined slow. Prices about the same as at the close of last week. Following are the rates current:

Extra Philadelphia $5 30; prime do, $5 20 to 5 25; Yorkers, $4 75 to $5 00.

Sheep.

The run of sheep fair and the quality of the offerings fair. The demand is light and but few sheep are selling, in fact not enough on which to base quotations.

New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 110¾.

NEW YORK, December 23, 1873.

MONEY

easy at 5 and 6 per cent.

STERLING

weak at 108¾ for sixty days, and 109¾ for sight. Customs receipts $245,000.

GOLD

closed at 110¾, after selling at 109¾@110¾. Loans were at 4½, 7, 3 2, and 7 gold for carrying, and flat for borrowing. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $64,000. Clearings $34,000,000.

GOVERNMENTS

quiet and firm.

U. S. coupons, 1881	19	5-20's, '67	17½
5-20's, '62	13	5-20's, '68	17¾
5-20's, '64	14¾	New 5's	10¾
5-20's, '65	14¾	10-40 's	11¾
5-20's, '65, new	17	Currency 6's	12¾

STATE BONDS

dull.

Missouri	92¼	Virginia, old	36
Tennessee, old	80¾	North Carolina, old	24
Tennessee, new	80¾	North Carolina, new	14
Virginia, new	40		

STOCKS

dull. In the morning market declined from ¼ to ½ per cent., but after the first call a firm feeling set in, and a general advance of from ¼ to 1½ per cent. took place. Western Union was the leading feature. The next in point of interest were Illinois Central, Wabash, Pacific Mail and Lake Shore. The stock sales between ten and two o'clock amounted to 40,000 shares, of which 34,000 were Western Union, 18,000 Union Pacific, 12,000 Wabash, 5,500 Pacific Mail, 2,500 Quinn, 2,000 Central, 4,000 St. Paul, 6,000 Lake Shore, 4,500 Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central, and 2,000 Northwestern.

Bankers' bills	9¾	St. Paul	39¾
Canton	61	St. Paul preferred	62
W. U. Tel. Co	71¾	Wabash	48¾
Quicksilver	25¾	Do preferred	68
Adams Express Co	91	Fort Wayne	97
Wells, Fargo & Co	66	Terre Haute	15¾
American Express	55	Do preferred	33
U. S. Express	67	Chicago & Alton	101
Pacific Mail	37	Do preferred	120
N. Y. Central	95¾	Ohio & Mississippi	28¾
Erie	44	Illinois Central	99
Erie preferred	76¾	Bur. & Quincy	94
Harlem	112¾	Lake Shore	74¾
Harlem, preferred	116	Panama	116
Michigan Central	74	Illinois Central	99
Michigan Southern	74	Union Pacific	88¾
Northern Pacific	54¾	Central Pacific	95
Do preferred	68¾	Union	84¾
Rock Island	97	Hartford & Erie	7
N. J. Central	100	Del. Lack	101¾

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, December 23, 1873.

FLOUR—Quiet and unchanged.

GRAIN—Wheat dull and unsettled; No 1 spring $1 34@1 35 ¾ 60 lbs; No 2 do $1 14@ seller January; $1 17¾ seller February; No 3, $1 05¾@1 05. Corn dull and declined; No 2 mixed 51@52c for cash; 53¾c seller January, 54¾c seller February. Oats dull and lower; No 2, 38c sp t, 38¾c seller January. Rye—Demand fair and market firm; No 1, 66c. Barley—Demand fair and market firm; No 1, 71 75.

PROVISIONS—Pork dull at $14 spot, $14 50 seller February. Lard easier at 8¾c spot, 8¾c seller February. Bulk meats—Demand active; shoulders 5c; hams 8¾@8¾c.

WHISKY—Steady and in moderate demand at 95c.

Buffalo Live Stock Market.

BUFFALO, December 23.—Cattle—Receipts and reported arrivals 925; total for the week 2 312. Notwithstanding a light run the market opened slow, buyers and sellers wide apart, owners asking ¾a¼c advance over last week's closing prices; a few loads sold at bought ¾@c advance; eastern buyers hanging off and several lots unsold over the holidays. Sales 280 Indiana steers, averaging 1,405 lbs at $5 40; 19 Illinois steers, averaging 1,305 lbs at $5; 150 Ohio steers, averaging 998@1,3 9 lbs at $4 30@5 75.

Sheep—Light receipts, including reported arrivals, 4,800 head; total for the week 7,600 head. Market on 1 at ½c decline on all grades under last week's closing prices; but few buyers in attendance.

Hogs—Receipts, including reported arrivals, 2,400 head; total for the week 3,700. Market is steady; about 10 car loads offering; Yorkers $5 00@5 12½; heavy hogs $5 12½@5 25.

JAS. B. MURRAY,
Observer, Signal Service, U. S. A.

Greensboro.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GREENSBORO, PA., December 23, 1873.

River stationary, with five feet water in the channel. Weather clear. Thermometer 36 degrees at 4 P. M.

Brownsville.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BROWNSVILLE, PA., December 23, 1873.

River stationary, with seven feet of water in the channel. Weather clear. Thermometer 36 degrees at 4 P. M.

Wheeling.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WHEELING, W. VA., December 23, 1873.

River ten feet and falling. Departed—J. E. Rankin, for Pittsburgh, at 7 A. M.; Grand Turk, for Parkersburg, at 11 A. M.; Andes, for Cincinnati, 3 P. M.; R. W. Skillinger, for Pittsburgh, 7 A. M. Clear and moderate.

Evansville.

EVANSVILLE, December 23.—Snow last night; clear and cold to-day. Mercury 20 to 44 degrees. River fallen two feet; now thirty-two feet by metal mark. Port list—Down—Mary Avent, F. E. Grace, Fayette Tarascon, Gallatin, Quindaro, Pioneer, Cumberland, Idlewild, H. S. Turner, Ben. Franklin, R beris, Jas. Lucas, Prairie City, generally with good trips. Business active.

Memphis.

MEMPHIS, December 23.—Cloudy, cool and damp. River falling steadily. Arrived—Belle Peoria, Rock; Parker, Cincinnati; Fair Child, Cincinnati; Bismarck, St. Louis; Pat Rogers, Cincinnati; Stranger, Scudder, New Orleans; and Bannock City, White river.

New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, December 23.—Arrived—Katie P. Robertson, Alberce, St. Louis. The E. Z. arrived last evening from Vicksburg, with 5,741 bales cotton, for Grand Tower and lower ports. Departed—Kate Kinney, St. Louis. Clear and cool.

For Latest River Dispatches see Fourth Page.

RIVER NEWS.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

Arrived.

E. Bennett.....Carmack.....Geneva.
Elizabeth.....Houghton.....Elizabeth.
Great Western.....Thompson.....Brinton.
James E. Rankin..A. Cutler.....Matamoras

Departed.

E. Bennett.....

CITY MATTERS.

The Hiland School.

A large number of citizens of East Liberty, visited the Hiland school on Monday, in pursuance of a general invitation issued by the Principal, Mr. George P. Fulton. The visitors were shown through the entire building where the usual every-day exercises were being carried out. All expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the excellent workings of the school, which are quite complimentary to Mr. Fulton.

Cheap Fare by the Connellsville Route.

Our readers will be interested in the announcement elsewhere made by Mr. Saml. C. Hough, general passenger agent of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, of the great reduction of fare to the seaboard. The rate was never cheaper, and doubtless many people will take advantage of the opportunity to visit Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia and New York. The Connellsville is now a first-class road and the accommodations cannot be excelled.

The Taxpayers Union.

The Taxpayers Union of the Seventh and Eighth wards held another meeting last evening and considered the ways and means of aiding the Committee of Forty in their laudable purpose of purifying the City Government The usual long speeches of Capt. Ward and others, were heard, and the "forty" were eulogized in the strongest language. Great improvements were promised, and the meeting adjourned with the utmost good feeling, and with reliance "that something would turn up."

Probable Infanticide.

At noon yesterday the body of a new born female child was discovered in the vault of a privy, in the Thirty-fourth ward, near Clinton Mill. The remains were perfectly developed and presented every evidence of having been thrown there during Monday night. Coroner McCallin held an inquest on the body yesterday afternoon, and the jury returned a verdict that the child had met its death from having been thrown there on the night previous. No clue as to who placed it there has been yet discovered.

Man Tries to Drown Himself.

About eight o'clock last evening, a lady discovered a man throw himself into the river at the foot of Penn street. She immediately informed Officer Potts of the fact, and he, with the aid of another policeman and several private citizens, drew the man out and conveyed him to the police station. Restoratives were administered to him, and when he became able to speak he gave his name as James Shoolzey, stating that he was a jeweler, from Leechburg, and that he had arrived in the city but three or four hours previous to his attempted suicide. He was well dressed, and attempted the rash deed while under the influence of liquor.

Man Smothered.

About ten o'clock yesterday morning George Davis, while under the influence of liquor, crawled under the steam boilers of McKnight's rolling mill at the foot of Fifteenth street, South Side, and met his death by inhaling noxious gases. The engineer of the rolling mill discovered him under the boilers shortly after he had gone there and requested him to come out, but was called away before Davis complied with the request, and about one o'clock the assistant engineer saw him there and dragging him out found that he was dead. Coroner McCullin held an inquest on his body in the afternoon and a verdict was rendered in accordance with the above facts. He was a sing e man, aged twenty five years, and lived in the Twentieth ward.

MAKING THE FUR FLY.

Panic Among the Ladies—A Raid upon the House of Messrs. McCord & Co., 131 Wood Street.

It's an ill wind, indeed, that blows no good. This adage has been happily illustrated in the depression, caused by the late panic, of the prices of furs held in the East. There was a great tumble in prices there, because many of the dealers were caught "long" in furs and "short" in funds. These were willing to part with their minks and sables, their muffs and boas, at greatly reduced prices, in order to tide over the panic; and prudent dealers (such as the old and reliable house of McCord & Co.) who had "an available balance," stepped in and availed themselves of the market.

Now what we wish to say is simply this: Messrs. McCord & Co. have an entirely fresh stock of elegant furs, for the holidays, which they are selling at very low rates. The ladies have found this out, and are now making a regular raid upon the establishment. Their stock of fur goods, comprises a vast variety of every grade and quality, including the finest and choicest that nature and art are capable of producing, such as Fine Mink, Sable Cloaks, Seal-kin Sacques, Hudson Bay Sables, Black and Silver Grey Fox, and Russian Muffs and Boas, of styles, grades and qualities sufficient to please the taste of even the most exacting. They have also a very full stock of Ladies', Misses' and Gents' Fur and Fancy Kid Gloves and Seal Gauntlets; the display is wonderfully large and the prices very low. These goods are all new and fresh, and carefully selected from the finest goods to be found in reputable houses in the East and are of the latest and most fashionable styles. The reliability and fair dealing of the firm are known to all of our readers, and we can only say to those in need of furs to give McCord & Co., a call by all means.

THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Sickness of Mr. Swoope, Mr. Ross and Mr. Jamison—Hearing Postponed till January 6.

Yesterday afternoon, at one o'clock, Alderman McMasters (in the Common Pleas courtroom No. 2) called the case of the Commonwealth vs. John Ross, R. C. Dickson, Frank Ardary and Thos. S. Blair, charged with conspiracy to defraud the city. Col. Bayne appeared for the Commonwealth, and Messrs. Marshall and Acheson for defendants.

Mr. Marshall asked for a continuance on the ground that Mr. Swoope, one of defendants' counsel, was lying seriously ill at his home. He also presented a certificate from Dr. P. D. Perchment, setting forth that Mr. Ross is confined to his bed, and that any exertion whatever on his part might prove fatal to his case.

Mr. Bayne stated that he was ready to go, but from the circumstances that one of his witnesses, Mr. Jamison, of Philadelphia, was also sick, he had no objections to a postponement.

Officer Kreuter was then called, and testified under oath that he had served a subpœna on Mr. Jamison, but found him too ill to leave his home. He was present at the funeral of his grandfather, and had to be carried to the carriage. Mr. Bayne then asked and obtained an attachment on Jamison, requiring him to appear himself and bring with him all necessary books and papers at the next hearing.

Mr. Marshall suggested Friday, January 6th, as the time for the next hearing. The suggestion being acquiesced in by the counsel, the Alderman fixed that day at two o'clock, sharp.

Mr. Dickson wished for an early hearing, as his counsel, Mr. Hampton, would leave the city on Monday next, and he did not want this thing hanging over his head. He stated that Mr. Hampton would be unable to attend on the 6th of January. The case, however, went over until the time stated.

ALLEGED FRAUDULENT LEASE.

Preliminary Injunction Granted to Restrain the Collection of Rent.

In the District Court, yesterday, a preliminary injunction was granted in the case of Thomas M. Bayne, Esq., executor, etc., vs. R. C. Sutton, Henry Hess and Lyndi McGoffin. The petitioner, who is guardian *ad litem*, for Nettie A. McKee, and executor of the estate of Thomas McKee, deceased, sets forth that the deceased was the owner of the house and lot, No. 24 Western avenue, Allegheny; that he had leased the house to a Mr. Sproul; that he (deceased) had known R. C. Sutton for a number of years, he (Sutton) having rented from McKee and failed to pay the rent; that Sutton well knew that McKee would not rent to him, and in order to get fraudulent possession of the above named premises employed Sproul to secure the lease for him; that Sproul never intended to occupy or use the house, but conspired with Sutton to obtain the lease; that Sutton did not intend to occupy the house, but contrived to get possession of it for $420 per annum, that he might sublet it at an increased rental; that Sutton let the same to V. E. Beamer at $560 per year, thus realizing $80 per annum as a profit; that Beamer had been notified not to pay the rent to Sutton, or his agent, and has refused to pay to him; that thereupon Sutton issued a landlord's warrant and levied upon the household goods of Beamer, and threatened to sell the same—Hess and McGoffin being the constables having control of the warrant; that Beamer is willing to pay the rent, when he knows to whom it rightfully belongs, and joins in this bill of complaint, that the case may be legally settled.

The Court was therefore asked to restrain Sutton, and the constables named, from proceeding with the landlord's warrant, or any other process for the collection of the rent; and that Sutton and Sproul be perpetually enjoined from collecting rent, and that the lease be cancelled. The parties were remained accordingly until the further order of the Court.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

"A GREEN Christmas makes a white Easter and a white Easter makes a graveyard."

HON. M. HAMPTON, in company with his son, John H. Hampton, Esq., will visit Florida, and perhaps other Southern States, early in the new year. The Judge is not in good health, and has been advised by his physician to try a change of climate.

JEREMIAH CROSSON attempted to steal a fine large turkey that was hanging outside of Myer's grocery store, corner of Madison avenue and Ohio street, Allegheny, last evening. A policeman seeing him in the act, interfered and took him to the lock-up. He will have a hearing this morning.

THE First Ward Relief Society of Allegheny held another meeting last evening, when the canvassers of the committee reported that they had found seven families with meager clothing and in a famishing condition. Members of the society confidently state that they will be able to raise $4,000, which will be invested in shoes, provisions and clothing, and distributed to the needy.

THE CITY ENGINEER.

ANOTHER INVESTIGATION.

The Charges of Councilman Kirk.

Mr. Dempster Makes Answer.

The Special Committee of Councils Appointed to Investigate the Doings of the City Engineer, Hold Their First Session.

The Council committee having in charge the matter of investigating the charges preferred by David Kirk against City Engineer Dempster, met yesterday afternoon in the Common Council chamber, and proceeded to business.

Members present, Messrs. E. P. Jones, Lloyd, Scully, Brown, Fulton, McConway, Semple, and Evan Jones, chairman.

Mr. Martin was chosen to make a verbatim report of the proceedings.

PRELIMINARY.

The charges against Mr. Dempster (already published) were then read by the city clerk, after which it was moved by Mr. Semple that Messrs. Fulton and E. P. Jones conduct the examination.

Mr. Kirk obtained leave to make a request that his counsel, Mr. Slagle, would be allowed to interrogate witnesses.

The motion to appoint Messrs. Fulton and Follansbee the examiners, prevailed.

J. F. Slagle, Esq., then stated that he appeared as counsel for Mr. Kirk; that Mr. Kirk was not the accuser, but that he had concluded to produce his witnesses. He added that until the Committee was organized, there was no power to issue processes, and he asked the Committee now to issue the necessary subpœnas.

Mr. Semple thought this was only to gain time and to baffle the committee. Mr. Kirk had plenty of time to invite his witnesses to be present.

Mr. E. P. Jones moved that subpœnas be issued for the attendance of witnesses. Carried.

Mr. Slagle, counsel for Mr. Kirk, then added that not having any witnesses at hand, he would request the committee to send for Mr. DeCamp, a clerk in the city treasurer's office; to produce the record showing that Mr. Dempster had drawn certain sums on warrants from Street commissions.

Mr. Semple explained that Mr. Kirk had said in Council that he would not go before a committee composed of Evan Jones and his colleagues. This showed a disposition not to treat the committee fairly, not to say insult them. He was the instigator of the charges, had gone at the matter by a circuitous round, and now declined to appear in the role of a prosecutor.

ADMISSION OF MR. DEMPSTER.

W. M. De Camp, a clerk in the Controller's office, was sworn.

Mr. McConway wanted to know what it was proposed to prove by this witness.

Mr. Slagle stated that it was expected to prove that Mr. Dempster received the money charged.

Mr. McConway said that Mr. Dempster would admit having received the moneys alleged in the charges.

Mr. Dempster was here allowed to state that he did admit having received the money, but—

Mr. Kirk insisted that the examination of the witness on the stand should go on, that Mr. Dempster had not been sworn, and even if he had, the case for the prosecution should be closed before any testimony for the defense was taken. He asked the Committee to appoint some gentleman learned in the law as umpire to decide what questions were proper and what were not. He meant no disrespect to the Chair or the Committee. He wanted simple justice.

STATEMENT OF MR. DEMPSTER.

Mr. Dempster was sworn and made the following statement: Mr Chairman, and gentlemen of the committee, when I assumed the position of City Engineer, there was a number of streets, perhaps half a dozen, planned by my predecessor, in addition to several other contracts on hand. When I went into office, a number of Commissioners came to me and asked me to take charge of several avenue improvements under the Penn avenue act; as under that law I have charge of only the grades and lines, not of the construction. I concluded it would be for the interests of the city as well as the property holders, to comply with this request; I did so; I employed assistants, and was glad to do so, though from the money passed between the Commissioners and contractors; my understanding was that all proper expenses would be paid; so far as individual remuneration is concerned, I never received a dollar, and will account to the Commissioners for all the money I handled and paid out, at the proper time.

Mr. E. P. Jones—Have you the vouchers?

Mr. Dempster—I have the pay rolls.

THE RECEIPTS.

Mr. Dempster then admitted that he had received the following sums: For Ellsworth avenue received $1,000; paid most of that to the men doing the work, and part for the expenses; received $465 for Neville street; for Forbes street, $60; for Highland avenue $150; received for a switch on Second avenue $50 from Laughlin & Co., which was paid to the man who put it in; have also received $187 50 for Thirty-third street, which I paid into the city treasury; did not agree to be the engineer on Liberty avenue; understand that my duty as city engineer, on streets made under the Penn avenue act, is to give grades and lines, and see that they are carried out; when I employed engineers on Ellsworth avenue, I acted at the request of the Commission, who owed money for that time and expense incurred; the money didn't go into the city treasury; I received that money from the different commissions for the purpose of paying these expenses—all the money that I received was drawn on the warrants of the commissioners from the city treasury;

THE AGGREGATE

of my pay tolls for these improvements amounts to $4,866; according to my account there is coming to me $1,136 50, which I paid out of my own pocket; considered that I was acting in one sense as the agent of different commissioners, as between them and the parties who did this work; the only advantage resulting from my acting in this way was that the property holders were saved the expense of employing an independent engineer; I never received a dollar as remuneration; some of the men that I put on that work were in the employ of the city, but at the time only received their salary from the commission, and none from the city; I never received or expected to receive a single dollar of remuneration for acting as engineer for the commission; in regard to regulating lots I never received any money except $30 from Mr. Jones, which I paid into the city treasury; and never regulated lots except those for which application had been made before the regulating ordinance had been passed.

MR. KIRK WITHDRAWS.

Mr. Kirk here stated that he withdrew from the case because his first witness was summarily set aside, and the committee had closed his mouth.

Mr. Lloyd denied that there was any disposition to shut his mouth.

Mr. Fulton argued that he was in favor of a fair investigation.

Mr. Slagle contended that the committee had not given Mr. Kirk an opportunity of proving his charges.

Mr. Scully asserted that Mr. Kirk had endeavored, but without avail, to withdraw the charges that he had made before the Mayor.

Mr. McConway moved that Mr. Kirk be sworn, and put on the stand.

Mr. Fulton moved to amend by requesting Mr. Kirk to furnish the City Clerk with the names of witnesses, so that subpœnas could be issued.

After further discussion the committee adjourned until Friday afternoon, at three o'clock.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

District Court—Judges Ewing and White.

The case of J. Sharp McDonald vs. Owners of the steam tug Tom Dodsworth, was concluded yesterday, the jury retiring under the charge of Judge Ewing.

The case of John Huckestein vs. Wm. Lamon, Sr., taken up before Judge White, on Friday last, was concluded. This was an action in replevin to recover for a lot of stone, quarried by the plaintiff, as alleged, under a lease from the defendant. The defendant claimed that the stone had been quarried after the lease had expired. It appeared that the lease terminated on the 18th of January, previous to which time Huckestein had blasted a large lot of stone, and after the expiration of the lease began to break and split up the stone preparatory to hauling them away. The case turned upon the question whether what was meant by the term "quarried." The plaintiff claimed he had a right to all the stone removed from the original bed, while the defendant held that the plaintiff had no right to remove any stone after the expiration of the lease. Jury out.

The remaining jurors were discharged from further attendance.

Common Pleas—Judge Stowe.

In the case of the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railway Company vs. George W. Cass, the jury found for the plaintiff the sum of $25,300—the amount of the stock subscription, with interest for three years.

In the case of Bourne vs. the R. C. Orphan Asylum, the jury failed to agree and were discharged.

Kerney vs. The Castle Shannon Railway Company. Plaintiff took a non suit.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Windsor vs. the Pleasant Valley R. R. Co.
Emerick vs. Lloyd et. al.
Stern vs. Bohn.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Sterrett.

Samuel Murphy, charged with the larceny of an empty barrel, from George W. Smith, was acquitted.

W. H. Lonber, charged with assault and battery was released on a *nol pros*.

Fred Bloomer charged with aggravated assault and battery in striking Pat. McNulty on the head with a brick was convicted of simple assault and battery.

J. P. Morris, charged with mayhem in knocking out the eye of Coleman Naugher, on the Monongahela bridge was convicted of aggravated assault and battery.

Bread for the Poor.

Mr. Joseph F. D. Keating, of No. 34 Federal street, Allegheny, will give away to the poor, on Christmas day, five hundred loaves of bread, and a similar number on New Years day. This is an act of practical benevolence worthy of imitation.

GRIER HEARD FROM.

The Nation Bank and Its Accounts.

The Receiver Gets a Statement from the Missing Cashier—His Whereabouts Still a Mystery.

It was rumored yesterday that John H Bailey, Esq., receiver of the defunct Nation Trust Company, had received a communication from the missing cashier, Robert J. Grier. All sorts of reports were in circulation regarding the matter, and, of course, Mr. Bailey was interviewed on the subject. Mr. Bailey at once admitted that he has received a statement in Grier's handwriting, but that there is no clue with it as to where the "wanted" man is. The purport of the paper is to give information regarding certain accounts that are in a state of confusion on the books of the bank. Beyond this, nothing further can be gleaned. Mr. Bailey says that the statement presents few features not previously known, and these only relate, as we have said, to the books of the institution. As to how the receiver was put in possession of this statement, Mr. B. does not state.

Mr. Bailey was interrogated as to when he expected to make his report to court, touching the condition of the bank and the result of his examination. He informed us that when he took charge of the bank, his first care was to call in the pass books of the small depositors, compare them with the bank accounts, and return them to the anxious inquirers, with an explanatory statement. He added that no more than ordinary routine trouble attended this. He was now engaged in examining the larger accounts, which involved more perplexity, and he did not expect to complete his investigation for over a month yet. As near as he could estimate he would not be prepared to report before court before the first of February, because he had determined to make a most exhaustive examination, and to draw up his report in as complete and satisfactory manner as he found it possible. He further states that he found the books of the bank kept in a very confused state.

EDUCATIONAL.

Washington County Teachers' Institute.

The Teachers' Institute of Washington county held a meeting at the town of Washington, on Monday.

The Institute convened at half past one, and after some songs from the pupils of the public schools, led by Prof. Ed. W. Monck, B. C. Northrup, LL.D., of Connecticut, was introduced, and proceeded to introduce the subject of Reading. He said if children can be led to like study; if you can interest them and keep them interested, the work of teaching them is made easy. He thought the old methods of teaching a child the alphabet were, or ought to be obsolete. In conversation with a gentleman of his acquaintance, whom he regarded as a good instructor, he informed him that one or two days were all that he required to teach children the alphabet. It is detestable to compel little children to monotonously say their "A B C's," and then meekly sit with their arms folded the remainder of the time. They should be pleasantly employed. How does he so soon know his comrades? By scanning their faces and figures. He, like a master, to teach reading we should make the pupil acquainted with the forms of letters and words, then their names and power.

The Doctor urged upon the teachers the importance of the principles of association—and comparison; when and wherein they agree and wherein they differ from each other. He would have pupils practice reading with the utmost possible rapidity—not orally but mentally. Oral reading should be deliberate. Those who early form a habit of rapid reading, will reach much, and the discipline will probably raise them to eminence. The speaker referred as an illustration, to Geo. S. Boutwell, who in early life formed this habit. He thought more attention should be given to practice upon difficult combinations of consonants.

Mrs. Anna Randall Diehl, of New York, being introduced, said that through permission of Prof. Fee she would drill the children of the singing class. She read two or three selections in different styles of reading and had the class imitate her. This shows how imitative children are. If teachers are good readers, with proper pains pupils will become good also. In her remarks to teachers on this subject, she thought the most important direction for good reading is to read as you would talk. Good reading is simply good talking. More is expressed to the mind than the words. You can make intelligent animals understand from the tones of your voice. The expression of the face must correspond to the sentiment. Dr. Northrup thought there was a tendency amongst teachers to talk too much to their pupils—to tell them what they had better find out for themselves. He spoke of the necessity of improper posture as affecting health; said pulmonary disease was the curse of this land. Germans are, as a nation, free from consumption. This is due to the physical exercises they learn to maintain at school. Using the vocal machinery aright is healthy exercise. West Point cadets are healthy and their curriculum of studies is the best in all the land of colleges. He thought the principal need now was drill upon the fundamental rules and principles until children could recite them with lightning like rapidity. A child should give the result in addition or subtraction as intuitively and instantaneously as in spelling. Training upon these rapid processes will strengthen fondness for mathematics. Adjourned till 7 P. M.

The exercises of the evening consisted in singing by the pupils of the public schools followed by the address of welcome, by Rev. Wm. H. Ewing. Response by Lewis B. Welsh, of Finleyville. Both these efforts were quite eloquent and received considerable applause. The exercises closed with a song by a choir from Southwestern Normal School, led by Professor Herzog, and the rendering of the very pretty selection by Mrs. Diehl, entitled "The Young Soldier" and the "Creeds of the Bells." Her imitation of the intonations of the bells was an admirable effort. The reading was well received by a large and critical audience.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Tuesday morning, the Institute was called to order. Scriptures read, and prayer by Rev. W. H. Ewing. Dr. Northrop entertained the Institute on the subject of teaching spelling to pupils of all grades. He said we learn more readily from sight than hearing. Therefore, the ocular association is better than the auricular. Small pupils should print much. As soon as possible they should be taught to script hand. He illustrated his methods upon the blackboard; said he would employ as many different methods as he could make interesting to his pupils. Employ every pupil and bring them loyally and disciplined to the mind. Good spellers were almost uniformly good readers.

Mrs. Diehl took up a review of the preceding lesson on reading; said she thought teachers should always reproduce the lessons and exercises. She read several selections illustrating the varieties of voice. The reason why so many public speakers, and those who use them much, break down, is because they have but one kind of voice, speak too much from the throat. The custom develops lung power, and its exercise is beneficial. She thought pupils should be led to take an interest in English literature, by being made acquainted with authors by the teacher. Children have a great exuberance of spirits, which should be utilized in vocal gymnastics.

Prof. Fee said the spelling contest would take place in the school hall in the afternoon. Adjourned till 1:30 P. M.

THE COAL EXCHANGE.

Steamboatmen and Coal Dealers in Council.

A meeting of the Coal Exchange was held yesterday morning, and was called to order by the President, Mr. John F. Dravo, and in the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Bunn was on motion selected to act in his place.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read by the secretary and approved, and after getting through with some minor business of the Exchange, the meeting adjourned; and as all the members of the Exchange are members of the Steamboatmen's Association, Capt. N. J. Bigley was called to the chair and Col. James M. Schoonmaker acted as Secretary.

President N. J. Bigley stated that some action should be taken in relation to the proposed Trans-Atlantic Canal, connecting the Ohio river with the Atlantic ocean, and by the construction of the same, a saving of $8,000,000 to $10,000,000 a year would be saved the Eastern consumers of coal, and that the construction of this canal would be of inestimable value to the coal dealers of this vicinity.

Mr. John F. Dravo stated that as Congress was in session he thought that the Steamboatmen's Association should have some person in Washington City to represent their interests, and that the defeating of the railroad bridge at Cincinnati had fully compensated the river men for all the money they had spent in their interests.

Mr. Barrett, a gentleman who has been representing the river interests in Washington City for several years, was called upon and made some very interesting statements of the progress and interest taken during the last session of Congress in river navigation, and that he thought the present Congress would do justice to the men navigating the Ohio and other rivers. The government engineers appointed by the last Congress, had reported adversely to the Steubenville bridge.

Mr. John F. Dravo moved that a committee be appointed to look after the interests represented, and the chair appointed the following gentlemen as the committee: Captain M. Bailey, James M. Schoonmaker, Joseph Walton, John F. Dravo and Captain R. C. Gray. After which a motion was made to adjourn till next Tuesday at ten o'clock, which was agreed to.

Allegheny Park Commission.

A meeting of the Allegheny Park Commissioners was held last evening. Bills to the amount of $2,132.50 were approved. The resolution of Councils, to the effect that the Commission be abolished, was read, but no notice taken of it. The Commissioners claim that, until the appropriation of $500,000 made to them for the improvement of the parks be expended, the Councils have no power to do away with their service, and state that after the remainder of this appropriation, amounting to $7,000, is laid out, they will offer their resignation. Mr. McNeal presented a petition from the friends of the late Colonel Clark, asking that a site in the parks, on which to erect a monument to his memory, be given them. James Parks, Jr., President of the Commission, was authorized to grant the privilege.

THE REDUCED FARES.

How the Change Came About.

The Washington *Chronicle* gives the following as the origin of the competition between the Baltimore and Ohio and the Baltimore and Patomac (or Pennsylvania Central) roads:

Since the opening of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad there have been great efforts made to divert travel to that route exclusively, and travelers to and from New York, desiring to use the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio road, have been subjected to all sorts of inconveniences, some of which have heretofore been referred to by the press of that city. The policy thus established, not having had the effect expected, many travelers desiring the old route, notwithstanding the difficulties the Pennsylvania Company has resorted to more extreme measures, and on Saturday they notified the Baltimore and Ohio Company that on the 224 instant their trains north will not be run in connection with the trains on the Baltimore and Ohio road. This, it will be seen, was very short notice, and has been evidently done to embarrass the other road, thus placing the traveling community in the same condition they were formerly in—*i. e.*, with only one route by which to go north.

The Baltimore and Ohio road claims that under the old agreement, establishing the Air Line, six months' notice is required before any change can be made in the arrangement for running through cars. The Pennsylvania Company repudiates the agreement, and the Baltimore and Ohio Company retaliates by a very large general reduction in the rates between Baltimore and the West. This policy is obvious, and can readily be understood. The Pennsylvania Company will probably five times as much through passenger business as the Baltimore and Ohio, and rather than lose New York and Philadelphia will follow in the general reduction, much Western travel will be diverted through Baltimore because of the low fare, which wont hurt Baltimore, but will Washington. The managers of the Baltimore and Ohio claim that as their through business is relatively so small, and passenger trains are not running full, that an increased business will be established, more than compensating for reduction.

WHAT IS SAID IN BALTIMORE.

The Baltimore *American* states that quite a sensation was created in that city by the announcement of the reduction in fares, and adds:

The reason for such a striking reduction in the rates of passenger travel is supposed to have been caused by some dissatisfaction existing between the managers of the Baltimore and Ohio and the managers of the Pennsylvania Central Railroads. The dissatisfaction originated in regard to the Washington bound passengers from New York. These passengers are all compelled to go from New York to Philadelphia over the line of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, which is leased by the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, and from Philadelphia to this city by the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, which is an independent road, and the fares are divided equally for both the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Pennsylvania Central Railroad at so much per head. From this city to Washington and all points in the West and South there are two railroads, the Baltimore and Ohio and its rival, the Northern Central and the Baltimore and Potomac, which are controlled by the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, and a through ticket bought at New York may be over either the Northern Central or the Baltimore and Ohio. The passenger in using either ticket must first pass over the Camden and Amboy Railroad, which as before stated, is controlled by the Pennsylvania railroad. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad company claim that by controling the Camden and Amboy road the Pennsylvania Central railroad influences through passengers to purchase tickets over their line, and in that way they injure the travel over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

It was reported last evening that for the present no cars belonging to the Baltimore and Ohio railroad would be allowed to go over the Camden and Amboy road. This order is supposed to emanate from the Pennsylvania Central railroad. This, if true, will likely bring matters to a compromise, as it will be almost impossible for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to carry passengers at the rates so greatly reduced for any great length of time.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

"Lost at Sea" was repeated last evening to a splendid house. We have seldom seen an audience so interested by any stage performance. The telling points in the play were eagerly taken by the spectators, and applauded most cordially. The orchestra is much better than usual—really good. Strange to say, in one or two instances the machinery was worked less skillfully than on the first night. Those who were not present on Monday night noticed the hitches. By the premature introduction of the fire into the room where Walter Cyrus was confined, the admirable effect of soliloquy which is intended for him was cut short. But these are small matters and do not influence us to change the opinion already formed of the play. It is worth a dollar to the Opera House of all who appreciate something in the dramatic way far removed from vulgarity and mediocrity. It will run this week, with matinees on Christmas and Saturday afternoons.

Academy of Music.

The sensational drama of "Marked for Life" had its second performance at the Academy of Music, last evening, when the audience was much larger than on Monday night. This drama, we might say, consists of one continuous string of sensational scenes and situations, some of them possible, none of them down to the common level of life. Mr. George France is quite a young gentleman, but evidently had considerable experience on the stage. The picture of "Skid," the faithful negro friend and servant, pleased the audience very much, and drew from them considerable applause. Miss Nellie Noble, as "Dora Whitney," was also favorably recognized. Mr. Ang. Piton, while not the best "heavy villain" ever seen, makes a good deal of the sentiments and lines of "Jack Blake." To the writer's mind, the "Jack Tatters" of Mr. Pearson is by far the best thing in the play. He gives a capital bit of the always disreputable, but good natured sailor. "Marked for Life" will be repeated to-night, and again to-morrow afternoon. Seats may be secured at Hale's, 103 Smithfield street, or at the Academy on the evening the day.

Trimble's Varieties.

Full houses are the rule at this house, which, by the way, is not wonderful, considering the great attractions afforded. Mr. E. D. Davies is the Napoleon, or the Shakspeare, of ventriloquial art. In some of his surprising vocal illusions he is, as are all ventriloquists, assisted by means of lay figures, and very interesting to the reflective thinker as well as amusing to the ordinary listener and observer they, with their wonderful power in pantomime and modulations of voice are; but his most remarkable triumphs are won without the aid of any of these auxiliary surroundings. Standing alone upon the platform, he presents a perfect immobility of countenance, but pitches his voice about at will, with such a marvelous variety of expression and intonation that it is exceedingly difficult for one not thoroughly informed in the matter, to believe that they are not of a variety the actual voices of the several persons whose utterances they are supposed to represent. It is a performance that every thoughtful person should be led to take an interest in English literature, by being made acquainted with authors by the teacher. Children have a great exuberance of spirits, which should be utilized in vocal gymnastics.

Prof. Fee said the spelling contest would take place in the school hall in the afternoon. Adjourned till 1:30 P. M.

THE COAL EXCHANGE.

Steamboatmen and Coal Dealers in Council.

A meeting of the Coal Exchange was held yesterday morning, and was called to order by the President, Mr. John F. Dravo, and in the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Bunn was on motion selected to act in his place.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read by the secretary and approved, and after getting through with some minor business of the Exchange, the meeting adjourned; and as all the members of the Exchange are members of the Steamboatmen's Association, Capt. N. J. Bigley was called to the chair and Col. James M. Schoonmaker acted as Secretary.

President N. J. Bigley stated that some action should be taken in relation to the proposed Trans-Atlantic Canal, connecting the Ohio river with the Atlantic ocean, and by the construction of the same, a saving of $8,000,000 to $10,000,000 a year would be saved the Eastern consumers of coal, and that the construction of this canal would be of inestimable value to the coal dealers of this vicinity.

Mr. John F. Dravo stated that as Congress was in session he thought that the Steamboatmen's Association should have some person in Washington City to represent their interests, and that the defeating of the railroad bridge at Cincinnati had fully compensated the river men for all the money they had spent in their interests.

Mr. Barrett, a gentleman who has been representing the river interests in Washington City for several years, was called upon and made some very interesting statements of the progress and interest taken during the last session of Congress in river navigation, and that he thought the present Congress would do justice to the men navigating the Ohio and other rivers. The government engineers appointed by the last Congress, had reported adversely to the Steubenville bridge.

Mr. John F. Dravo moved that a committee be appointed to look after the interests represented, and the chair appointed the following gentlemen as the committee: Captain M. Bailey, James M. Schoonmaker, Joseph Walton, John F. Dravo and Captain R. C. Gray. After which a motion was made to adjourn till next Tuesday at ten o'clock, which was agreed to.

Allegheny Park Commission.

A meeting of the Allegheny Park Commissioners was held last evening. Bills to the amount of $2,132.50 were approved. The resolution of Councils, to the effect that the Commission be abolished, was read, but no notice taken of it. The Commissioners claim that, until the appropriation of $500,000 made to them for the improvement of the parks be expended, the Councils have no power to do away with their service, and state that after the remainder of this appropriation, amounting to $7,000, is laid out, they will offer their resignation. Mr. McNeal presented a petition from the friends of the late Colonel Clark, asking that a site in the parks, on which to erect a monument to his memory, be given them. James Parks, Jr., President of the Commission, was authorized to grant the privilege.

A COLUMN OF FLAME.

A Singular Phenomenon in Nevada—A Column of Phosphorescent Light Sixty Feet High—Awe-stricken Miners.

The *Enterprise*, of Virginia City, Nevada, under date of December 5th, prints the following: "About one o'clock yesterday morning some of the residents of the western part of this city were startled by observing what seemed a column of flame fifty or sixty feet in height shooting up out of a shaft near the old Ophir Works. It was at first thought that the old timbers of the mine were on fire, and three or four men ran to the spot to see what could be done toward smothering the flames. On reaching the shaft, however, they found that there was no smell of smoke, and also that the supposed fire was a light unlike anything they had ever before seen, and its weird whiteness and the strange coruscations of its component particles. In the light the faces of the men wore a look of corpse-like pallor. Two or three of those present were miners returning from work with dinner pails in their hands, and it was observed that the pails (tin) appeared of a brilliant steel-blue color. Their clothing and hair also partook in some degree of the same ghastly and unnatural color. The light came up the full size of the large square shaft, and seen at a distance as it rose up through the falling snow, closely resembled one of the shooting spires seen in the aurora borealis, and it seems to have something of the same waving and incontinuous motion. Although the men felt overcome with a sort of superstitious awe, they still had sufficient courage to approach the shaft and gaze into it. A strange sight was there seen. The column was about as large around, there, and that is now considered, is about the size of the large square shaft, and seen at a distance